



UKRAINE

Christian Adoption Services is currently working in partnership with Orphan's Hope, an experienced adoption coordinator, for placement of Ukrainian children in North Carolina. Adoptions from Ukraine do not pre-identify children; adoptive parents travel to Kyiv to visit the State Department for Adoption for the identification of available children and are then travel to an orphanage where their potential child resides. The total adoption is expected to be completed within 9 to 12 months.



Children

Children from Ukraine range from about 2 to 3 years up to age 16. Adoptive families can choose the age and gender of the child, and can sometimes adopt more than one child at the same time if the children live in the same orphanage or region. As in any international program, parents need to be open to a child with minor correctible needs. All children are available to Ukrainians for at least 14 months before being made available to foreigners for adoption. Children are Slavic in appearance, most with blond or brown hair and light eyes. There are some children with darker complexions in some areas of the country. The level of care and attention received in the orphanages is exceptional due partly in fact to the typical 1:5 ratio of care givers to children.

Parental Criteria

Ukraine poses few restrictions for prospective adoptive couples. However, CAS prefers that the age difference between parent and child be no greater than 45 years, but will consider older applicants on a case-by-case basis. The number of children already residing in the home is not an issue. Christian couples should be married at least two years, be in good physical and emotional health, and complete pre-adoption training. Singles are not accepted.



Length of Process

Once the dossier is complete, it is sent abroad. The adoption coordinator deals directly with the State Department for Adoption (SDA) in the capitol of Kyiv. Since adoptive applicants choose their child/ren after arriving in Ukraine, there is a shorter time period from beginning paperwork until parents are home - usually about 9 to 12 months!

Travel

Adoptive applicants travel to Kyiv to visit the SDA for referrals of available children. Facilitators who are fluent in English (as well as Russian and Ukrainian) are made available to the applicants throughout the entire stay. Because the length of the stay abroad to complete the adoption is approximately 6 weeks, adoptive applicants are encouraged to make two trips to Ukraine. The first trip is for about 3 weeks during which time they identify their child and proceed with the legal adoption of the child. Essentially, after the applicants visit the SDA they travel to an orphanage, be it in Kyiv or in another city, where they visit the children, watch them interact with each other, speak to their care providers, review

their medical records, and make their choice as to the child/ren they wish to adopt. Should the applicants not find a child they wish to adopt at the first orphanage, they can choose a referral at a second orphanage, but may be asked to explain their reasons in writing at the SDA. There is an appeal period as mandated by the law before the actual legal documents can be issued. As previously stated, rather than to reside in Ukraine for that extra two weeks, most parents return to Ukraine 3 weeks later to complete the process and to file their visa petitions at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. This second trip usually runs between 7-12 days.



**Please contact CAS at cas@christianadopt.org
or 704.847.0038 for more
information on our Ukraine program.**

