

Scope of Practice: Russia Program

Adoption ARK

Adoption ARK works in partnership with an agency accredited in Russia—Hand in Hand International Adoption, located in Colorado. Adoption Ark:



- Provides initial adoption consultation
- Reviews program requirements with the prospective adoptive family
- Provides dossier instructions and dossier forms to prospective adoptive family
- Assists with dossier preparation
- Assists with USCIS process, providing step-by-step instructions
- Coordinates dossier translation
- Coordinates dossier approval by accredited agency
- Coordinates registration of the dossier with the Department of Education through accredited agency (Hand in Hand) representative (the in-country coordinator)
- Works with the in-country coordinator to obtain, translate, and transfer referral information to the prospective adoptive family (information is provided by the Department of Education)
- Assists with travel logistics, arranging lodging, transportation, and translation
- Assists while the prospective adoptive family is traveling, providing U.S. emergency contact
- Helps to prepare prospective adoptive family for the American Embassy appointment prior to travel
- Provides post adoption support and supervises preparation & submission of post placement reports to the proper authorities
- **Adoption Ark does not refer or place children for adoption**

Home Study Agency

- Interviews the prospective adoptive family
- Obtains clearances, background information, medical reports, references on the prospective adoptive family
- Writes home study report and grants adoption approval (at State level)
- Provides post placement / post adoption supervision

Department of Homeland Security /USCIS/ US Embassy Overseas

- Reviews home study and conducts a more comprehensive background check
- Issues approval for adoption (at Federal level)
- Investigates the child orphan status
- Issues a U.S. visa

Accredited Agency—Hand in Hand

- Reviews and approves dossier prior to submission
- Writes an approval letter and guarantee of submitting post placement / post adoption reports
- Hires foreign coordinators

Accredited Agency representative (the in-country coordinator)

- Submits documents to the Department of Education in Russia
- Obtains referral information from Department of Education
- Submits documents for court
- Assists clients in court
- Coordinates travel and accommodation in the region

Moscow representative

- Assists with Embassy appointments
- Assists with registration with the ministry of foreign affairs

Role of Government (from the Department of State website)

Role of The Adoption Authority: The Ministry of Education reviews the request to adopt in that region. Upon approval, the prospective adoptive family is directed to an orphanage. The Ministry also assists the Adoption Agency with preselecting the child. *Role of The Court:* The prospective adoptive family applies for a court date after they have traveled to Russia to meet and select a child. It may take four (4) - six (6) weeks* to receive a court date. Prospective adoptive family is advised to return to the United States so there are no problems with the validity of their visa. For the court date, prospective adoptive family must produce three (3) additional documents which must be signed in front of a Russian notary. The documents verify that they have been informed of the child's medical conditions and they accept them, they will register their adopted child with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and they will provide post placement / post adoption reports.

* In Adoption ARK's experience, it could take longer than four (4) six (6) weeks to receive a court date.

Due to the nature of international adoption, all information contained herein is subject to change without notice.