



Ukraine

Program requirements are subject to change without prior notice

GENERAL INFORMATION

Who can adopt?

- The difference in age between the child and the adoptive parents must be more than 15 years.
- A couple must be married, with or without children.
- Same sex couples are not accepted.
- Particular medical criteria may apply.

TDH'S criteria for children available for adoption must be:

- Either gender.
- Couples interested in adopting a child **without siblings** must state that the child be 5 to 12 years of age for a higher probability of adoption.
- Couples interested in adopting **siblings** must state the age of the children be 0 to 12 years of age for a higher probability of adoption (one of the children in the sibling group must be 5 years and older).

*Larger sibling groups are common.

Types of adoption

- Form of the Decision

The decision pronounced by the local authorities is a judicial decision (court judgment).

- Effect of the Decision

It is a plenary adoption which means the legal bonds of filiation between the child and his birth family are completely dissolved. A new legal bond of filiation is created between the child and his adoptive parents.

Cost of an adoption

- The total cost of an adoption for a couple is approximately \$40,500 CAD.

- These fees include costs incurred in Canada and in Ukraine, namely the opening of the file, registration and translation fees, medical fees, consular fees, legal fees, salaries and overhead in Canada and in Ukraine. Costs related to the homestudy, travel, accommodation, interpretation and immigration are also included in this amount, but are paid directly to the service provider and not to TDHO, and depend on the preferences of adoptive parents.

DOSSIER REQUIREMENTS

Each of the following original documents of the dossier must be notarized, and then legalized at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa and the Ukrainian Embassy or Consulate. The documents are translated into Ukrainian and certified by a notary to be presented to the Department of International Adoption in Ukraine.

- Homestudy report
- Ministry approval
- Petition to adopt
- Power of attorney
- Police clearance
- Interpol application
- Medical certificate
- Marriage certificate
- Letters of commitment
- Certificate of property
- Letter of employment
- Copies of passport

ADOPTION PROCESS

- Once your dossier is registered at the Department of International Adoption in Ukraine, the Department will submit an invitation to the adoptive applicants specifying the date of your appointment.
- Before their departure, the TDHO representative will prepare the adoptive applicants for their trip to Ukraine.
- The presence of both adoptive applicants in Ukraine is a requirement.
- Adoptive applicants will arrive in Ukraine at least one day prior to their appointment.
- Adoptive applicants are accompanied and guided by the TDHO team during their stay in Ukraine.
- The stay in Ukraine is a minimum of eight weeks. It can be less if the family wants to leave after the court decision and return once the judgment is rendered and the immigration procedure is completed.
- Upon arrival in Ukraine, the adoptive applicants will attend an information session given by the TDHO coordinator in Ukraine.
- After this session, the adoptive applicants attend a meeting at the Department of International Adoption to identify a child they will adopt.

- At the Department of International Adoption, the adoptive applicants will be presented with the database of all the children available at that moment.
- The Ukrainian authorities determine which children are available for international adoption.
- In order to be registered with the Department of International Adoption, a child must be legally free to be adopted, and have had a medical workup, including blood tests. If a child has no known medical issues, they are not eligible to be adopted until they are 14 months old.
- After the adoptive applicants choose a child, they will receive a letter of permission to visit the orphanage and meet the child. Before making a final decision, the family is able to get medical advice from a pediatrician of their choice.
- Once the adoptive applicants make a decision to adopt the child, the child's documents will be translated and sent to the adoption practitioner in Ontario who conducted the adoptive applicant's homestudy.
- A telephone conference is arranged between the adoptive parents, the TDHO foreign representative, the adoption practitioner who did the homestudy, and TDHO. The consent refusal document is then signed by the adoption practitioner, by TDHO senior staff, and by the adoptive parents. A copy of this document is sent to the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services so that the letter of no objection can be issued by this department.
- Formal notice of acceptance of the child by the adoptive applicants is provided to the Department of International Adoption
- The Department of International Adoption will issue the necessary approvals allowing the applicants to adopt the child.
- The TDHO coordinator will arrange for the court proceedings. After studying the dossier of the parents and the child, the judge determines the date for the hearing to legalize the adoption. The adoption decision is a judicial one, with the effect of the rupture of the bonds between the child and his/her family of birth, and the creation of a new bond of filiation between the child and the adoptive parents. The child conserves his/her Ukrainian nationality. There is a 10-day waiting period before the final adoption decree is issued and enters into effect.
- All documents are translated, including the medical record book with indication of vaccinations received. New birth certificate and travel documents are obtained for the child, and the process of Canadian Immigration is completed with the submission of these documents to the Canadian Embassy. With the issuance of the Canadian citizenship and passport or a Canadian visa, the child may return to Canada with the adoptive parents.

*Please note that international adoption is subject to the vagaries of international or national events which may delay, impede, or put an end to an adoption in process.

POST-ADOPTION REPORTING

Ukraine requires that the adoptive parents inform the Ukrainian authorities of the arrival of the child in Canada by registering the child's passport at the Ukrainian Embassy in Ottawa within one month of his arrival in Canada.

Progress reports are an essential step in the adoption process that provides the foreign authorities with the assurance of the child's positive integration into his/her new family. Ukraine requires that adoptive parents complete progress reports on their child. The forms and guidelines for completing the progress reports are provided to the adoptive parents by TDHO after they return to Canada with their child. Adoptive parents are to submit to TDHO one report per year for the first three years after the adoption, and then one report every three years until the child reaches the age of 18. The reports must include a minimum of four photographs, and are to be completed in duplicate. Upon receipt from the adoptive parents, TDHO will forward the reports to Ukraine.

The Consulate also reserves the right to exercise a follow-up on the living conditions of the adopted child until the age of 18, and to this effect, may visit the home of the adopted child.