



# Bulgaria

Program requirements are subject to change without prior notice

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Who can adopt?

- Married couples, with or without children.
- Single applicants.
- Adoptive applicants must be at least 25 years older than the child.
- Particular medical criteria may also apply. We will advise you on this.

### Type of children generally proposed

- Boys and girls 1 year and older.
- Children aged 6 and older are processed faster.
- Sibling groups 1 year and older.
- Children with special needs. We will advise you on this.

### Cost of an adoption

- The total cost of an adoption for a couple is approximately \$40,000 CAD.
- These fees include office administration, registration in Bulgaria, translation, medical report fees, consular fees, legal fees, salaries, and fees paid to the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice. Costs pertaining 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 are dependent on the adoptive applicants' preferences.

## DOSSIER REQUIREMENTS

Each original document of the dossier must be notarized, and then legalized at the Ministry of Global Affairs in Ottawa and the Bulgarian Embassy. The documents are translated into Bulgarian and certified by a notary to be presented to the Department of Adoption in Bulgaria. The following are a list of required documents:

- Petition letter
- Homestudy report
- Ministry approval
- Marriage certificate
- Divorce certificate (if applicable)
- Medical certificate
- Birth Certificate
- Police certificate
- Photocopy of the passport for each applicant
- Pictures
- Power of attorney

TDHO will assist the adoptive applicants in preparing their dossier.

The program coordinator for Bulgaria ensures the conformity of the dossier and its transmission and guarantees the follow-up with the Bulgarian authorities.

The waiting period for a child proposal is generally as follows:

1. Children 1-6 years old – 3-5 years
2. Children 7-12 years old – 1 year (approx.)

This varies based on the availability of children for adoption, processing adoption requests, and preparing the child's profile.

Other events may also slow down the matching process, such as a change in government, changes in Bulgarian laws, a moratorium on international adoptions, political conflicts, and natural disasters.

While adoptive applicants are awaiting their child proposal, they are asked to keep the agency up to date with any significant changes in their lives such as pregnancy, job loss, separation, divorce, death, new living arrangement, or illness. If any significant changes have occurred during this time, the agency will contact the applicants' adoption practitioner who may have to do an update to the original homestudy and a new psychosocial evaluation will be required.

## CHILD PROPOSAL

The Bulgarian Ministry of Justice is the central authority in Bulgaria for international adoption. They are responsible for offering child proposals to waiting adoptive applicants and propose an approximate time frame of 10 days for a response of acceptance or rejection from the adoptive applicants. If the adoptive applicants are accepting the child proposal.

## ADOPTION PROCESS

- Adoptive applicants will travel to Bulgaria twice before bringing their child home.
- Each trip is approximately 1 week long.
- The first trip is for adoptive applicants to meet their child and spend time together.
- The second trip is for court and to obtain the child's visa to enter Canada and the child's Bulgarian passport.

## POST-ADOPTION REPORTING

Bulgarian law requires post placement reports every 6 months during the first 2 years after the child's arrival in their new home. The reports focus on the child's progress in their new home and are completed by an approved adoption practitioner and must include photos of the child and his parents. TDHO is responsible for the certification, authentication and transmission of these reports to the Bulgarian authorities.