

# RUSSIA



1,586 Russian children were adopted by Americans in 2009, according to US State Department statistics.

Infants 12 months and older, toddlers and older children are available from Russia. Russia is a large country that includes various ethnic groups. Most of the children available for adoption in Russia are of Eastern European descent. Children who live in regions bordering China, Mongolia, and Kazakhstan may be of Asian or Middle Eastern descent.

Russia has a long standing international adoption program. The reasons that children are placed for adoption in Russia are: lack of financial resources, family support, and opportunity. Economic hardships related to the transition to a market economy have left many families unable to financially provide for their children. Children available for adoption in Russia live in orphanages.

After submitting your dossier to Russia, you will receive a referral which will include pictures and medical information on a particular child. You will be strongly encouraged to have this information reviewed by an international adoption pediatrician. If you accept your referral, plans will be made for your first trip to Russia. The first visit is usually brief. You will meet your child. If you decide to proceed with the adoption, you will go to court and file a petition to adopt. You will return home. When a court hearing is set, you can return to Russia to complete the adoption and escort your child back home.

**Russia - Requirements:**

- Age of parents: No older than 45 for an infant or toddler; older parents may adopt older children - varies by region
- Marital Status: Married and single; prior divorce acceptable
- Travel Requirements: Two trips
- Children in the Home: May have biological or adopted children in the home