



*"Recognizing that the child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding."*

*- Hague Adoption Convention, Preamble*

# INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

Office of Children's Issues, United States Department of State

## Adoption Notice: Russia

May 13, 2010

A U.S. interagency team held meetings to discuss an adoption agreement with their Russian counterparts on May 12. The meetings are ongoing and will continue on May 13. The initial talks were positive, productive and conducted in a spirit of cooperation. Both sides are interested in taking steps to increase the safeguards for adopted children. The discussions were technical in nature because they involve domestic laws of two countries. There is still important work to be done and this continues to be a high priority for both governments.

It is our understanding that there has been no change in the status of on-going inter-country adoptions originating from Russia. Many thousands of Russian children, who were not adopted by Russian families, have found loving, safe and permanent homes in the United States through inter-country adoption. We are pleased to be discussing with the Russian government a future approach to ensure intercountry adoptions continue.

**Prospective adoptive parents should be aware that in some parts of Russia, adoptions continue to be slowed down or delayed.**

**If you have completed an adoption in Russia and have an immigrant visa appointment at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow:**

The U.S. Embassy in Moscow is continuing to schedule and issue immigrant visas for adopted children using normal processing procedures. [Contact the Embassy](mailto:RussiaAdoption@state.gov) at [MoscowConsularR@state.gov](mailto:MoscowConsularR@state.gov) to schedule an appointment. Please also stay in close touch with your adoption service provider.

**If you have a court appointment to finalize your child's adoption in Russia:**

Many adoption cases are continuing to move forward in the courts. We have heard of cases in which a court appointment has been postponed. If your court appointment is postponed by the court, please provide this information to us by email at [RussiaAdoption@state.gov](mailto:RussiaAdoption@state.gov) and [MoscowConsularR@state.gov](mailto:MoscowConsularR@state.gov). Neither the Department of State nor the U.S. Embassy have the authority to intervene with the Russian courts on any individual case and cannot provide a letter for use in the courts. Adoption service providers and/or legal representatives in Russia may be able to make inquiries about your case on your behalf with Russian courts.

**If you do not yet have a court date to finalize an adoption in Russia, but are in the process of adopting from Russia:**

Please stay in close contact with your adoption service provider, and check the [adoption.state.gov](http://adoption.state.gov) website regularly for current information about intercountry adoption from Russia.

*The Department of State's Office of Children's Issues has established a special e-mail box for inquiries or comments about adoptions from Russia. Prospective adoptive parents and others with concerns about adoptions from Russia may send their questions to [RussiaAdoption@state.gov](mailto:RussiaAdoption@state.gov). Prospective adoptive parents may also provide complete contact information for themselves, including full address, phone number, and e-mail information, the name of their adoption service provider (if available) and details about the child they are planning to adopt.*