



...lighting the way for new beginnings since 1989

Beacon House Adoption Services, Inc.

International Adoption- RUSSIA



www.BeaconHouseAdoption.com

Founded in 1989, Beacon House Adoption Services is a licensed, Non-Profit, 501(C) (3) Adoption Agency with a long tradition of working with adoptive families.

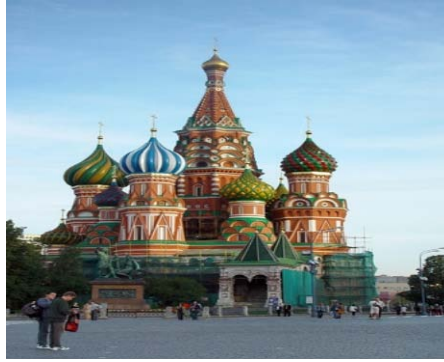
Specializing in international adoption from Russia, Beacon House is one of an elite group of adoption agencies worldwide, fully Accredited in Russia/ Russian Permit for Adoption Activity, and has permission to operate as a Non-Governmental Organization.

We offer individualized, personal service combined with the resources and experience of a well-established, Russian Program, expert guidance in preparing your dossier, and experienced staff here and in Russia working on your behalf who understand US and International Law.

About Beacon House

- Established in 1989
- More than 5,000 adoption completed
- Low staff turnover
- Licensed in multiple states and regional offices
- Placing children nationwide and US citizens living abroad
- Currently working in many of the most popular regions of Russia.
- Competitive fees

Referrals generally take 6-9 months and many families are able to complete their Russian adoption in under a year. Families who want two young children may have a slightly longer wait.



CONTACT US

www.BeaconHouseAdoption.com

Licensed offices in:

Pensacola, FL

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Pensacola, FL 32502
(850) 430-4005 (PH) (850) 430-4016 Fax
1-888-987-6300

Baton Rouge, LA

5917 Jones Creek Rd, Suite 100B
Baton Rouge, LA 70817
(225) 753-5551 (PH) (225) 753-6866 Fax
1-888-987-6300

Gulfport, MS:

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Gulfport, MS
(228) 897-7755

International Case Supervisor: linda@beaconhouseadopt.com (770) 856-3052

International Case Manager: denise@beaconhouseadopt.com (864) 360-1523

Social Services Director: dayle@beaconhouseadopt.com (225) 753-5551

Executive Director: anne@beaconhouseadopt.com (850) 430-4005



Introduction to Russian Adoption

Adoption from Russia is subject to the laws of the Russian Federation as governed by their family code. Russia is not a party to the Hague Treaty on International adoptions, but in the past year, Russian officials have entered into discussions with the US Department of State to ensure that agencies are properly overseen in the US.

Presently, international adoption may be accomplished on the territory of the Russian Federation with the assistance of an adoption agency that is accredited by the Russian Federation. BEACON HOUSE is one such agency, having received *the most recent and non-expiring re-accreditation in January of 2008*. Beacon House has been working in Russia since 1998 and has been accredited since 2001, when the Russian Federation first required such status of agencies.

Beacon House is also HAGUE accredited through COA, so that any issues that may come up despite Russia's non-Hague status can be handled through either/both accreditations.

Russia

Russia splintered in the 20th century into 14 independent countries and Russia proper. Due to the economic difficulties during the 20th century, Russia remains a country struggling with a population unsupported. The most significant result has been the breakdown of family. Children without parental care reside in orphanages and become available for adoption in accordance with the laws of the territory.

Adopting from Eastern Europe requires certain educational, cultural, medical, and mental health awareness in order to prepare for the possible issues that may arise (1) once you are presented with a possible referral, and (2) once adoptive parents are home with their child. Expectations play a large role in the success or failure of any international adoption.

Proper preparation is critical to the success of the placement. Beacon House fees include the cost of training from Heart of the Matter Seminars, providing online classes that comply with the Hague requirements for adoptive parent preparation. Beacon House requires that adoptive parents engage in this training as part of our program. It is important to develop an understanding of international adoption, the children being adopted, identifying expectations, reviewing medical issues, addressing cultural differences, issues specific to Russia and other areas which, if prepared, significantly increases the transition of the child into the family and thus the success of the adoption.

Beacon House also affiliates with the *International Adoption Clinic at the University of Alabama*, where the staff includes multidisciplinary professionals to evaluate and assist children. UAB offers pre-and post adoption evaluations and services. Dr. Jennifer Chambers is the head of the international adoption clinic and UAB offers online classes to help prepare adoptive parents.



“Choosing the right agency was very hard. We did our best in researching but also we had to take a leap of faith. From our first call to the agency through being home with our boy, Beacon House exceeded our expectations.” Stella and Steve

"Thank you again for all your help. I would like to applaud your agency for the work you do; we have not had such service as this and it is refreshing. Brenda, 5th adoption"

STEPS TO RUSSIAN ADOPTION- Beacon House Adoption Services

1. Agency Application submitted.
2. Family receives contract, submits agency services contract and fees.
3. Case Manager assigned to family.
4. BH initiates home study OR Home study agency located by BH and contacted by BH.
5. Home study process begins.
6. Pre-adoptive training and online classes arranged by BH.
7. Home study completed, USCIS I-600A filed. www.USCIS.gov.
8. Preliminary documents gathered by family with assistance of case manager.
9. Home Study approved by Beacon House accredited staff
10. Documents submitted to Russian region.
11. Accredited agency notified that child is available.
12. Family contacts International Adoption physician, arranges to have physician available while in country.
13. Family requested to travel.
14. Family makes first trip, appointment at Department of Education for referral – family meets their child!
15. Family consults International Adoption physician from Russia.
16. Upon family's return, court dossier completed with assistance of case manager.
17. Court dossier submitted.

18. Release letter received in region from Moscow.
19. Court date set. Second trip for court. After 10 day waiting, in country requirements are:
 - a. Apply for new birth certificate (in region)
 - b. Apply for child's passport (passport)
 - c. Apply for child's immigrant visa (Moscow – BH personnel provides all necessary travel and services for completion.)
20. Apply for Consulate Registration (Moscow, BH personnel provides services for registration as well.)
21. Home with your child!



PROGRAM PARTICULARS

Children who are available for international adoption are those who are determined to be “orphans” by virtue of any of the following: voluntary relinquishment of parental rights, involuntary termination of parental rights, or death of parents. In Russia, there is the additional requirement that the child be placed on the Russian Regional and Federal databank for children without parents for at least eight months.

Children eligible for adoption in Russian reside in orphanages. Most orphanages have a physician on staff and children are routinely tested for Hepatitis, TB, HIV and other common medical issues. Caregivers generally take good care of children and make the most of available resources. These resources often only provide the most basic necessities.

Children Available

- ✚ Age: 10 months to 15 years
- ✚ Gender: Both boys and girls
- ✚ Children are ethnically diverse; may be Caucasian, Asian, Tartar, or Roma
- ✚ Health: Many children are healthy, some have minor correctable issues and some have special needs
- ✚ Time frames: Boys under 2 years: 4-6 months from time documents are submitted in country and girls under two years 8-9 months from time documents have been submitted.
- ✚ Referrals: Referrals are officially made by the MOE in Russia. Local representatives may unofficially identify a region where a child may be available. Depending on the region where the child is identified, medical background and other information may or may not be available prior to travel.

Eligibility: Adoptive Parents

- ✚ Marital Status: Married couples and single women can adopt. Previous divorces accepted.
- ✚ Age: Singles must be at least 25 years old. In general, the child adopted must be no more than 45 years younger than the youngest parent. Some regions are more flexible on age than others.
- ✚ Children: No limitations on other children in the home.

Travel

- ✚ In general, two trips to Russia are required.
- ✚ Timeframe: The timeframe for any adoption depends on many factors, including the time for completing paperwork, the region your child is in, USCIS approval, and how soon you identify a child. We estimate the time frame to be 12-15 months from the time your documents are first in Russia.



TRAVEL TO RUSSIA

The time spent in Russia is truly a trip of a lifetime and provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know your child and experience Russian culture that is rich with history and the arts. Optional sightseeing may include concerts, the ballet, museum tours, souvenir shopping or visiting some of the most beautiful cathedrals in the world. During your trip, bilingual Russian Representatives are always available to guide you through the entire adoption process.

In general, you will be making two (2) trips to Russia. In most cases, you will fly to Moscow, Russia. In Moscow, you will be met by BHAS personnel. Someone will meet you at the airport with a card bearing your name. BHAS personnel will take you where you need to go and ensure that you do not miss your domestic flights. You will be given emergency phone numbers in case there are flight delays.

Typically, you will meet with the DE on your day of arrival in the region. Visits to the orphanage will commence the next day. On your first visit to the orphanage you will meet the orphanage director and doctor, when you will have the opportunity to receive a great deal of background on the child medical and social history. You should be prepared with a list of questions, as this may be the only chance you have to ask these. Beacon House can assist you in this preparation.

The Ministry of Education will expect you to make a decision about proceeding with adoption by the end of your first trip. The best way to be in a position to make that decision while in Russia is to arrive ready to make observations about the child, listen to the child's history – medical and social – take pictures and if possible, video of the child. There are checklists available to take with you to assess developmental milestones, measurements, and other information will be given to you. We can provide recommendations of knowledgeable international adoption doctors who can assist you while you are in Russia. Part of our program is to provide information on these physicians early in the process for pre-adoption services.

For your second trip to Russia, court trips are vastly different from region to region. You will visit the orphanage prior to attending the court hearing. The 10 day waiting period can be expected to be business days, although in some cases it may be calendar days.

Once regional paperwork is complete and the waiting period has elapsed, you will travel to Moscow to obtaining your child's visa and consulate registration. It takes approximately two business days to obtain the child's visa from the US Embassy and two more to have the child registered at the Russian Consulate. Once these requirements have been met, you may take your child home.



The following information is accurate for the calendar year 2011:

BHAS provides adoption services in the US and Russia in accordance with applicable Russian Federation, US federal and state law [in the states where licensed]. BHAS has the following programs available to prospective adoptive parents:

- Domestic adoption
- Adoption from the Russian Federation

BHAS is a non-denominational organization that provides adoption services without regard to race, religion, creed, national origin or sex.

General eligibility criteria for prospective adoptive parents vary with the program:

- For domestic adoptions, adoptive parents must be at least 25 years old, a married couple or single woman.
- BHAS does not accept single men for adoption.
- Same sex couples may not adopt.

A DETAILED LIST OF FEES, ANTICIPATED EXPENSES AND COSTS IS INCLUDED AT THE END OF THIS PACKET. PLEASE ADDRESS ANY QUESTIONS TO ANY OF OUR COORDINATORS OR CASE MANAGERS.

WHY CHOOSE BEACON HOUSE FOR MY RUSSIAN ADOPTION?

- ✚ Beacon House has been providing professional services for over 20 years; there is an experienced, caring staff at your disposal to address the needs of your adoption experience.
- ✚ US staff specializes in dossier compilation for Russian adoption.
- ✚ Expert staff to navigate the complex International and US adoption laws.
- ✚ Beacon House has non-expiring ACCREDITATION IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION for international adoptions.
- ✚ Beacon House has a **direct** Russian program. Overseas bi-lingual coordinators have personal contact with US staff to assure that families receive the best possible assistance at all times.
- ✚ Beacon House has NGO status in the Russian Federation.
- ✚ BHAS is a member of Joint Council on International Children's Services
- ✚ Beacon House is HAGUE accredited through COA in the United States, and licensed in multiple states.
- ✚ Beacon House works with families throughout the nation and abroad.



“Thanks to all the people from Beacon House it has been a great experience. Talking to other adoptive families, I really know how lucky we have been to work with Beacon House and its people, both in the US and in Russia.” Lillian and Marc

“We could not be happier with the family you helped create. Thank you Beacon House for your amazing efforts and dedication.” Lisa and Scott

FEES AND EXPENSES TO BE EXPECTED IN ADOPTION FROM RUSSIA

COUNTRY: RUSSIA – FIXED FEES – WILL NOT VARY

<i>Non-Refundable application*</i>	\$ 300.00
<i>Registration fee foreign program due with services contract</i>	\$ 500.00
<i>Dossier compilation fee due with services contract</i>	\$ 1,800.00
<i>BHAS Administrative Agency fee due at conclusion of home study</i>	\$ 3,650.00
<i>PD fee for foreign program: due with submission of home study and preliminary documents</i>	\$ 2,000.00
<i>Fee due with potential referral due within 4 business days of acceptance</i>	\$ 5,500.00
<i>Upon receipt of 1st trip dates</i>	\$ 5,500.00
<i>Upon acceptance of court date</i>	\$ 6,000.00
<i>Fee for second child installments of \$6,750.00 prior to first trip and prior to court trip</i>	\$13,500.00- payable in two

VARIABLE EXPENSES:

Travel costs, including airfare to Moscow and cost of travel to region (variable)

Accommodations (variable)

Cost of driver/translator in Moscow and region –

Moscow – 1st time: each trip to or from airport into the city: \$100.00, payable directly to driver/translator at the conclusion of the trip [upon arrival at airport or hotel]

Moscow – 2nd time; same as above; plus translator if needed

In region: Driver/translator fee for the time AP are in region, each trip. Depending on region and process, this will differ. General rule of thumb is approximately \$500 - \$1500.00 each trip.

Visas, passports, medical exam of child, exit interview at Embassy, spending money, cabs or other travel used without driver/translator, orphanage donations

Beacon House Adoption Services- References
www.BeaconHouseAdoption.com

REFERENCES

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BEACON HOUSE ADOPTION SERVICES, INC.

...lighting the way for new beginnings

223 West Gregory St, Pensacola Florida 32502 (850) 430-4005

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Toll Free: 1-888-987-6300

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION FORM

Date _____

Applicant 1 _____

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle _____

Spouse _____

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle _____

Address _____

Email address _____ Home phone _____

	APPLICANT	SPOUSE
Date of current marriage		
Date of birth		
Place of Employment		
Employment address		
Employment phone		
Employment fax		
Occupation		
Annual Income		
Amount in savings		
Social Security No		
Number of divorces		
Last date divorced		
Any medical diagnoses		
Any mental health history** use addition pages if necessary		
Medications		
Criminal convictions		
Arrests		
Passport No		
Passport place of issue		
Passport expiration		

Country of citizenship		
Religious affiliation		
Children: This includes all children in the family, whether or not living in the home, regardless of age, and from all previous marriages		

Do any others live in the home with you? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, describe relationship

Do you currently have a home study _____ completed or _____ in process?

Name of agency _____

Address and phone _____

Caseworker [Name, email address, phone number] _____

Have you ever been denied approval for a home study? _____ Yes _____ No

Aside from the previous question, have you ever been rejected as an adoptive or foster parent? If yes, please explain, if No, write "N/A" below.

Are you working with any other resource besides BHAS?

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Have you applied for or received CIS advance processing approval?

_____ Yes Date approved _____

_____ No

Applicants may specify gender and/or age of desired child. BHAS will use this information as a guide and attempt to meet your request. The overseas coordinators/office/governmental entities must approve all adoptive placements.

Please indicate preferences below.

Country _____ Preferred age _____

Preferred Gender _____ Number of children desired _____

The following questions must be answered for your application to be considered complete.

1) Does either applicant have any history of substance abuse as indicated by counseling, treatment, arrest or conviction?

2) Is there any history of mental illness or treatment for mental illness at any time in the past?

3) Is either applicant taking any medication? If so, list medications and the reason it was prescribed

4) Has either applicant completed any pre- adoptive educational training at this time? If so, describe such training, who provided it, how many hours, class/online, etc.

5) Briefly state why you wish to adopt a child internationally.

6) Have you attended any informational seminars on adoption? Where and when?

By signing this application I/we authorize BHAS to obtain information about me/us from any and all resources listed above and from all adoption agencies or home study agencies that are now or have in the past provided services to me/us.

I/We agree that BHAS is authorized to maintain and display my/our information on BHAS premises, and to provide and share confidential information to my/our home study agency and BHAS coordinators and representatives in foreign countries.

I/we understand that laws and regulations of the foreign governments and agencies in countries where BHAS maintains programs may change without notice; that adoptions in any country may be delayed, suspended or terminated at any time without notice; and that consequently, I/we may be subject to changing requirements and/or programs for international adoption. I/we agree that a photocopy of this authorization is as valid as the original.

I/we understand that this application is preliminary in nature and as such application does not guarantee acceptance into a particular program; applicants must meet program criteria as provided by the foreign country or the agency.

I/we further state that to the best of our knowledge, information and belief, all of the information contained in this application is true. I/we understand that in the event that we have misrepresented information to BHAS, our adoption process may be terminated immediately and all fees shall be due immediately.

I/We understand that we will be provided preliminary documents, including a contract, in response to this application. I/We understand that if we do not submit our contract and other preliminary documents within 60 days of receipt, this application will be considered null and void.

Signature **Signature**

Date: _____

Please return this form along with:

1. One photograph of the adoptive couple (may be color copies of passport pictures)
2. Non-refundable check or money order in the amount of \$300.00

TO: 223 West Gregory St
Pensacola, Fl 32502

Applications not accompanied by the fee will not be returned, nor will they be processed.