

Nightlight[®] Christian Adoptions International Adoption Program Description

KYRGYZSTAN



GENERAL INFORMATION

Kyrgyzstan was part of the former Soviet Union. It is located south of Kazakhstan and is now an independent republic. The capital city is Bishkek. If you are considering adopting from Kyrgyzstan please read the following information as required by the Hague Convention on International Adoptions.

The following websites are a useful place to start for reading more about Kyrgyzstan adoption and the country:

- <http://adoption.state.gov/country/kyrgyzstan.html>: Information on international adoptions from Kyrgyzstan at the U.S. Department of State web site
- <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5755.htm>: Information on the country of Kyrgyzstan on the U.S. Department of State web site

Nightlight has entered into a contract with the government of Kyrgyzstan to represent adopting families. There are several differences between the program in Kyrgyzstan and our programs in Russia and Kazakhstan.

CHILDREN AVAILABLE

Children may be of Kyrgyz (Mongol and Turk) or Russian ethnic background. The children are believed to be Kyrgyz, Kyrgyz/Russian mix and Russian. Children are sometimes available under 1 year of age.

The Kyrgyz government provides us with information on children they would like us to place. We will provide waiting families with photos and medical information. Some additional information may be available to prospective parents. We will provide you with as much information as we are able to obtain on a child, however, there will never be as much information on a child's background as we would like. The medical information is more critical for evaluating a baby for adoption since this is essentially all of the information that is available. As a child gets older their character, personality, temperament and intelligence become more important.

ELIGIBILITY TO ADOPT

Married couples or single women may apply to adopt from Kyrgyzstan. We require that the adopting parents be no more than 45 years older than the child, although this requirement may be relaxed somewhat in the case of older children. The parents must be in good health. Questions as to the number of other children in the family and other considerations are evaluated on a case by case basis depending on the characteristics of the child that is sought for adoption. The orphanage director, the adoption officials or the court may impose other restrictions as they consider necessary or advisable.

PROCESS

It generally takes approximately 5 to 8 months to complete the adoption process. First you will need to complete your homestudy, get CIS (formerly INS) approval and prepare your dossier for Kyrgyzstan (about 3-5 months).

Kyrgyz law requires the family to make a short preliminary trip (usually 2-3 days) to verify their selection of a child. After submitting the dossier to our representatives in Kyrgyzstan, the court hearing is scheduled and travel to bring your child home is typically within 2 months.

The second trip is normally less than 10 days in duration, including a short trip to Almaty, Kazakhstan (about a 4 hour drive from Bishkek) to obtain an immigrant visa at the U.S. Embassy. You are able to fly home directly from Almaty.

POST ADOPTION

Once you return home, you will need to immediately register your child's passport with the Kyrgyzstan Embassy (we will provide you with instructions). At this time, Kyrgyzstan requires post adoption visits with your social worker every 6 months until your child is 14 years old. Along with several pictures, these reports will be sent to the orphanage staff and officials for receipt in Kyrgyzstan and allow them to see your child's adjustment into your family and life in the United States. (Please be prepared to be flexible as government requirements for post adoption reports occasionally change and you will be expected to fulfill the most recent requirement.)

COSTS

The program fee for Kyrgyzstan is \$18,000 for a child age 1 year or older and \$20,000 for a baby under 1 year old, at time of referral. Your additional costs will include airfare, hotel, meals, and coordinator fees of about \$1000. Gifts and other in-country expenses are comparable to Russia. We make every effort to give you a realistic budget to avoid surprises. However, variations may result from differences in homestudy costs, travel and actual length of stay in Kyrgyzstan.

Please call with any additional questions you may have about our Central Asia adoption programs. You may also e-mail Kate Zyubenko, Kate@Nightlight.org with specific questions.

