MLJ

ADOPTIONS

International Adoption
Initial Information Packet
We understand that the international adoption process is overwhelming and complex. As a non-profit, Hague Accredited adoption service provider based in Indianapolis, Indiana, our team will guide you through the legal and social process of adoption while preparing, encouraging and supporting you along the way.

**We have experience.**
The MLJ Adoptions’ team consists of a diverse group of professionals who possess the experience, education and passion to serve children in need of families. Our staff includes adoption attorneys, social workers and an all-star support staff dedicated to meeting client needs. Our team’s commitment to vulnerable children is both personal and professional, and includes several parents through adoption.

**We provide support.**
Our team provides support from start to finish on your adoption journey; from home study completion to dossier preparation to assistance in country to providing post adoption counseling. We walk alongside you during your entire adoption journey.

**We offer community building.**
We are committed to community building among our families, hosting events throughout the year celebrating adoption. We advocate for our families to share support and encouragement with each other through our private, online forums and support groups.

We’re here to help no matter what your questions may be. It would be a privilege to provide additional information to you about the international adoption process.
International Adoption Services MLJ Adoptions can assist families with adoptions from Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Samoa and Ukraine.

We offer Home Study Services for Indiana residents:

- **DOMESTIC** Adoption
- **INTERNATIONAL** Adoption
- **RELATIVE** Adoption
- **KINSHIP** Adoption
- **STEP-PARENT** Adoption
- **EMBRYO** Adoption

**Orphan Hosting** is life-changing event for both the host child and the host families. MLJ Adoptions facilitates a Ukraine Hosting Program twice a year.

**Post Adoption Reports** We can assist Indiana families in completing agency-submitted reports. Many countries require some type of post-adoption reporting to ensure that your child is thriving in his or her new environment.

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Throughout the process, families will work with state, federal, and foreign entities to complete an international adoption. Depending on the country, the process and timelines will vary.

MLJ Adoptions comes alongside each family at every stage of the process to answer questions, provide guidance and give support.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Average wait from dossier submission to match</th>
<th>Approximate Total Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>18—36 months</td>
<td>$27,000 - $34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>9—18 months</td>
<td>$30,000 - $39,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>36—48 months</td>
<td>$29,000 - $34,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>12—24 months</td>
<td>$29,000 - $32,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>12—24 months</td>
<td>$36,000 - $38,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>18—48 months</td>
<td>$36,500 - $40,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukraine</td>
<td>12—24 months</td>
<td>$20,000 - $25,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please keep in mind that the time frames are approximate.

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COUNTRY PROGRAMS

**BULGARIA**

*Children in Need of Families*
- Children in Bulgaria are in need of families due to economic hardship, abuse and neglect, lack of acceptance of unwed mothers and medical needs.
- Children in need of families are 12 months to school age.
- Children are primarily ethnic Roma descent.

*Adoptive Parents*
- Single women and married couples
- There are no set age requirements, but Bulgaria prefers 15-45 years age difference between parent(s) and child.
- Bulgaria often shows great flexibility for children with special needs, sibling groups and older children.

*Travel*
- Two trips are required. Both trips are between 7 and 10 days long.

**BURKINA FASO**

*Children in Need of Families*
- Children in Burkina Faso are in need of families due to extreme poverty, lack of acceptance of unwed mothers, medical reasons where parents lack the financial resources to meet their needs, and loss of parents due to AIDS.
- Children in need of families are infants to teens.
- Children are of African descent.

*Adoptive Parents*
- Couples who have been married 5+ years and are between the ages of 29-52.
- No more than two children in the home after placement.

*Travel*
- One trip is required. The trip is between two and three weeks long.

Bulgaria is a Hague Convention Country

Burkina Faso is a Hague Convention Country

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**HAITI**

**Children in Need of Families**
- Children in Haiti are in need of families due to poverty, lack of acceptance of unwed mothers, cultural beliefs, war and medical needs.
- Infants to teens are in need of families.
- Children with special needs are in need.
- Children are Haitian descent.

**Adoptive Parents**
- Couples who have been married 5+ years and one spouse is at least 30 years old.
- Single women at least 35 years and older.

**Travel**
- Two trips are required; the first trip is approximately two weeks long, and the final trip is approximately one week long.

**Mexico**

**Children in Need of Families**
- Children in Mexico are in need of families due to poverty, lack of acceptance of unwed mothers and medical needs.
- Children age 5 to teens are in need of families.
- Children with special needs and sibling groups are in need of families.
- Children are primarily of Hispanic descent.

**Adoptive Parents**
- Couples who have been married 3+ years and single women.
- Adoptive parents must be at least 25 years old and at least 15 years older than the child they intend to adopt.

**Travel**
- Two to four trips are required.
- Depending on what state in Mexico you adopt from.

**Haiti is a Hague Convention Country**

**Mexico is a Hague Convention Country**

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Children in Need of Families
- Children in Peru are in need of families due to poverty.
- Children age 6 to teens are in need of families.
- Children with known medical needs and sibling groups are in need of families.

Children in Need of Families
- Children in Samoa are in need of families due to poverty or because they could be products of rape or incest.
- Infants to teens are in need of families.
- Children with special needs, including children with emotional needs and/or a history of abuse are in need of families.
- Children are of Asian/Pacific Islander descent.

Adoptive Parents
- Married couples and single women.
- Adoptive parents must be between 25 and 52 years old.

Adoptive Parents
- Married couples and single women.
- Single women must be at least 24 years old.
- Married couples must be between 23-55 years old.

Travel
- One trip is required. The duration of the trip is 6-10 weeks long.

Travel
- One trip is required.
- The 2-3 week trip consists of time in Samoa and time in Auckland, New Zealand.

Peru is a Hague Convention Country
Children in Need of Families
- Children in Ukraine are in need of families due to poverty, lack of acceptance of unwed mothers and medical needs.
- Children aged 6 to teens are in need of families.
- Sibling group and children with special needs are in need of families.
- Children are typically Caucasian.

Adoptive Parents
- Married couples
- No requirement of age, have to be open to a child at least 6 years old.

Travel
- One trip of 4-8 weeks is required. This trip may be able to be split into two trips of 2-3 weeks each.

Families must be open to adopting a child over the age of 6.

The MLJ Adoptions Waiting Child Photolisting connects children with loving adoptive families willing to meet the needs of these special children.
- Our Waiting Child Photolisting includes children with mild to severe physical or mental needs, healthy children older than five and children who belong to a sibling group.
- Each of our program countries has children with special needs in need of families.
- The process of adopting children with special needs may be expedited.
- The children range in ages from infancy to teens and include both boys and girls.
- The family requirements and adoption process vary according to the child’s country.
LEARN MORE

There is much to consider when thinking about adoption!

We offer free initial consultations for those considering adoption, during which we discuss the aspects of the adoption process and which country fits your family best. Prior to beginning with one of our programs you will want to schedule a free initial consultation either over the phone or in person. Please email info@mljadoptions.com, or call 317-875-0058 to set up a time to learn more!

SUBMIT APPLICATION & PAYMENT

Complete MLJ’s International Adoption Application and submit both the application and a non-refundable application fee of $395 to MLJ Adoptions.

Within 2-3 business days, our team will pre-screen the application to determine eligibility for our adoption programs, and provide the results via email. Please keep in mind that this application process is only an initial screening based on the limited information received; it is intended to prevent future issues to the best extent possible and limit stress.

BECOME AN MLJ ADOPTIONS’ CLIENT FAMILY

To become a client family, families will need to submit 4 things:

1. Signed Service Road Map of country program;
2. Signed Adoption Service Agreement;
3. Signed fee schedule for the country program that they wish to start;
4. Initial payment according to the country program fee schedule.

Families will be given access to our online client portal to view your initial guides to start your Home Study and/or Step One information, and will be contacted by one of our staff members.

Upon request, MLJ Adoptions will disclose to prospective adoptive parent(s) the following information: the number of its adoption placements per year for the prior three calendar years, and the number and percentage of those placements that remain intact, are disrupted, or have been dissolved as of the time the information is provided; the number of parents who apply to adopt on a yearly basis, based on data for the prior three calendar years; the number of placement referrals via MLJ. Please allow MLJ five business days to get this information to you after it is requested.
Adoption Service Plan: Burkina Faso

The adoption process from Burkina Faso is completed through the collaborative efforts of a variety of individuals and organizations. The goal of this document is to help you, as a prospective adoptive family, understand who is providing which adoption service to you or the child you are seeking to adopt. Since MLJ Adoptions is your adoption agency (Primary Provider), we collaborate with persons domestically and internationally throughout your adoption process.

MLJ Adoptions, a Hague Accredited adoption service provider, as the Primary Provider, bears responsibility to develop and implement the service plan for providing all adoption services and to provide all such services, either directly or through arrangements with other individuals or entities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step in the Adoption Process</th>
<th>Service Being Provided</th>
<th>Who’s Providing the Service</th>
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<tr>
<td>Home Study</td>
<td>Performing the home study on the adoptive family and reporting on such a study.</td>
<td>An accredited home study provider in your state of residence approved by MLJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Adoption preparation education.</td>
<td>National Council for Adoption, Creating a Family, &amp; MLJ Adoptions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifying a Child in Need of a Family</td>
<td>Identifying a child for adoption and arranging an adoption.</td>
<td>Office of Placements and Adoptions at the Ministry of Social Affairs and National Solidarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental Rights of Child are Terminated</td>
<td>Ensuring the legal consent to termination of parental rights and to adoption/guardianship.</td>
<td>Office of Placements and Adoptions at the Ministry of Social Affairs and National Solidarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referral Information on Child is Received</td>
<td>Performing the background study on the child and reporting on such a study.</td>
<td>Office of Placements and Adoptions at the Ministry of Social Affairs and National Solidarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Placed with Family, but Adoption is Not Yet Finalized*</td>
<td>Monitoring the case after the child has been placed with the family until final adoption.</td>
<td>This service is not applicable because the adoption is finalized in Burkina Faso prior to the child(ren)'s arrival.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Decides Not to Move Forward with Adoption after being Matched with Child*</td>
<td>Assuming custody and providing social services to the child if the placement disrupts before the adoption becomes final.</td>
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*These are not necessarily parts of the adoption process for most families

Should you have concerns with any part of your adoption process facilitated by MLJ Adoptions, please contact: Karlene Edgemon (Executive Director), Sonja Brown (Chief Operating Officer and Burkina Faso Program Director) or Kathy Butler (Accounting and Finance).

Please note that your Adoption Service Plan may be changed over time. We cannot guarantee that the providers named this plan will necessarily be the person or entity processing your case at any given time. We will keep you updated with any changes in your Adoption Service Plan.

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about your adoption process.
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<td>Print Name of Second Parent</td>
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Adoption Service Plan: Ukraine

The adoption process from Ukraine is completed through the collaborative efforts of a variety of individuals and organizations. The goal of this document is to help you, as a prospective adoptive family, understand who is providing which adoption service to you or the child you are seeking to adopt. Since MLJ Adoptions International is your adoption agency (Primary Provider), we collaborate with persons domestically and internationally throughout your adoption process.

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<td>Identifying a Child in Need of a Family</td>
<td>Identifying a child for adoption and arranging an adoption</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, Department for Adoptions and Protection of Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental Rights of Child are Terminated</td>
<td>Ensuring the legal consent to termination of parental rights and to adoption/guardianship</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, Department for Adoptions and Protection of Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referral Information on Child is Received</td>
<td>Determination of the best interest of the child and appropriateness of the adoptive placement</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, Department for Adoptions and Protection of Rights of the Child</td>
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<td>Child Placed with Family, but Adoption is Not Yet Finalized*</td>
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Viktor Sadovnikov
Oleksii Hutsuliak
Helen Romanchenko

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Should you have concerns with any part of your adoption process facilitated by MLJ Adoptions International, please contact: Karlene Edgemon (Executive Director), Sonja Brown (Chief Operating Officer), Viktoriia Serediuk-Buz (Ukraine Program Manager), Angela Simpson (Social Services Manager) or Kathy Butler (Accounting and Finance).

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Signature of First Parent          Print Name of First Parent                                   Date of Signing

___________________________  _________________________________________   _____________________
Signature of Second Parent   Print Name of Second Parent                           Date of Signing