



*"Loving a Child has no Boundaries"*

**ROMANIA ADOPTION  
Letter of Understanding**

As with ANY international adoption, the culture and lifestyle in any international country is very different from that of the United States. The following are some points that prospective adoptive families must understand as they commit to this International Adoption program. We, at Children's House International (CHI), feel it is of utmost importance that families are aware of the pros and cons of any of our adoption programs.

**As Adoptive parents:**

1. We understand that the primary method of communication concerning our adoption will be through e-mail. We will inform CHI of any problems with our e-mail or change of address during the process so there will be no interruption of communication through e-mail.
2. We understand that it is Children's House International's policy that our home study must be written by a Hague accredited agency. In situations where a Hague accredited agency is not available, the International Specialist and the Case Manager will work with the Prospective Adoptive Parents to find an agency that can write the home study.
3. We understand that it is Children's House International's policy that our home study must be written by a Hague accredited agency. In situations where a Hague accredited agency is not available, the International Specialist and the Case Manager will work with the Prospective Adoptive Parents to find an agency that can write the home study.
4. I/we understand that all Children's House International's adoptive families are required to take Hague compliant, pre-adoption courses which includes a minimum of 10 hours. These courses are offered on the Internet through various online resources including but not limited to Adoption Learning Partners, Creating a Family and Heart of the Matter. I/We understand that course requirement will ultimately be determined by my/our Social Worker and the Social Services Supervisor. The following are recommended courses: "Hague Package for International Adoption" from Creating a Family. I/We understand that I/we will be required to complete additional training beyond the minimum 10 hours, including child specific training. I/we agree to complete these courses and understand that these must be finished before my/our home study is completed.
5. We understand that life in other countries can move at a much slower pace than here in the United States. Keeping in mind that customs are different, etc., we are willing to be patient with and understanding of the people of our adopting country and be good representatives of both CHI and the United States of America.

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6. We understand that CHI has no control over how often waiting children will be referred. The waiting time is dependent on each country. CHI can give us an idea of how things have moved in the past, but cannot guarantee how things will move in the future. We further understand that we will not be allowed to travel to pick up our child without the permission of the Foreign government, US governments and CHI.
7. We understand that children being adopted from international countries sometimes come with scabies, malnourishment, parasites, etc. They may improve rapidly once they get the medical care and nutrition they need. The adoptive family understands the child may have experienced physical, sexual or emotional abuse prior to adoption and may exhibit sexualized behaviors in their new home. The family understands that they will need to provide
8. counseling or other resources to help their child deal with these experiences if these behaviors are evident once home. The family understands that these behaviors may not be apparent to the foreign caregivers prior to adoption.
9. We understand that the medical records may not be complete when we receive a referral. We further understand that we will receive very basic medical information on the child and the biological parents if available. Families may request further information and CHI will communicate that with the ROA.
10. We understand that we are not required to accept any **one** referral. CHI requests that a family who decides to decline a referral do so based on medical conditions, not physical attractiveness, hair color, eye color, skin tone, etc. We will be requested to give CHI a written reason for declining. An answer of yes or no should be given regarding the referral at a minimum of 2 weeks after the child is referred, as per US Hague Accreditation requirements. If the answer is yes, there will still be US Government processes to proceed through before the family can be approved for travel. (Romania requires a final decision within 45 days of CHI receiving the information of referral.)
11. We understand that it is possible, if there is an unexpected delay, CIS (US Immigration) documents may have to be re-submitted if our approval will expire before our adoption is completed. CIS fingerprints will have to be re-submitted before the CIS I-797 approval time of 18 months. Home studies must be updated yearly. There may be more documents required to be repeated. We understand this is not CHI's policy but they will be informing us of any new document requirements as they hear of them. These repetitive processes will likely involve additional financial investment.
12. We understand that, as specific information concerning our case comes along, private emails and phone calls will be made to us individually. CHI cannot call every family each week to say there is no news. Family phone calls to CHI are always welcome.
13. We understand that our travel cannot occur until we have paid all fees, turned in all CHI documents, and submitted out dossier. Travel is dictated by government requirements. It is impossible for CHI to promise you a specific time for travel in advance. Length of travel varies by country. We will be understanding and respectful of different cultures and religious backgrounds while traveling.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

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14. We will learn as much as possible about our adoptive child's culture and help our child to know about his/her culture and participate in cultural activities as much as possible.
15. We understand that we will have an official CHI employee representative in our adoptive country to help us with airport pick-up, driving within the country, assistance with any hotel or other personal problems that may be encountered during the stay in country as well as driving the family to the US Embassy. This CHI Employee will do their best to be sensitive to our needs and to help us during the stay. The CHI employee is not directly involved with the Romanian Government adoption process or outcome.
16. I/We understand that a PAR deposit is required for all families who do not pre-pay all required Post Adoption Reports in advance. (Proof of prepayment is required for non-CHI Home Study Agencies)
17. I/We understand that if we have paid a PAR deposit to CHI, this money will not be refunded until CHI has received the required post placement reports written by a social worker, copies of the final adoption documents we received in country, and a copy of our child(ren)'s U.S. certificate of citizenship.
18. We understand that CHI strongly encourages that BOTH parents travel, or that the traveling parent has another adult accompany them. We understand that depending on the country we are adopting from, one parent maybe allowed to travel on their own, or may be allowed to return home during the process, either by law or with previous permission granted by the local foreign government authorities. We also understand that when only one parent travels there may be additional paperwork required by foreign government officials and the U.S. Embassy, and the time spent in the country could be extended. CHI is not responsible for additional costs or time incurred if only one parent travels or if one parent returns to the U.S. before the adoption can be finalized in country, including processing of the U.S. Visa.
19. We understand that we are expected to travel to the country to accompany the child home. We understand that if an escort is requested or needed, we must obtain prior approval from the Executive Director. We also understand that our request will only be granted in unique circumstances and if the country allows.

**As Adoptive parents:**

1. We understand that based on our home study approval and our ability to parent, our information will be given to the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption (NAPCRA) and they will refer a child for us. This information will be given to us through communication from NAPCRA to Children's House International. In general, the NAPCRA has informed us that the criteria of the children that may be available for adoption can be children 3 years and up, as well as siblings and older children and children with Roma heritage. Please refer also to the NAPCRA website for statistical information.
2. We understand that once our paperwork is officially registered, we are then eligible to receive a referral of a child; however, CHI has no way to know how quickly our first referral may be received. CHI will contact the PAP as soon as information from the Central Authority is received.

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3. We understand that there is mandatory bonding period of a minimum of 30 days and both parents must travel. A social worker will be visiting 8 times during the stay to observe the child with the parents. Hotels, apartments or private arrangements can be used for the extended stay. After the visits, a report will be written by the local Child Protection and if favorable, a court date will be secured.
4. We understand that should we choose to stay in the country for the entire adoption process, it can be up 120 days.
5. We understand that the following documents cannot be more than 6 months old when submitted to the NAPCRA or presented to the Romanian court and will be required to be updated. Federal Bureau of Investigation Background Clearance, Medical Evaluation, Psychiatric Evaluation and Local Romanian Background clearances. We also understand that the foreign courts can ask for any additional documentation in order to review our case. CHI is not responsible for any additional costs incurred for updating and obtaining these documents.
6. We understand that adoptive time-frames cannot be contained within a specific parent request. For example: a teacher who has the summers off cannot expect the adoption to finish in the summer in order to accommodate the vacation schedule. Adoptions are complicated and touched by many officials both here and abroad. We understand that CHI is not the only participant in the process of the adoption and cannot guarantee any time-frames. We understand that we must travel when the Central Authority requests us to travel once the referral is accepted.
7. We understand that in Europe, many "holiday" (vacation) periods exist and sometimes last for days or weeks at a time. These holidays may close down the very offices that are needed to process our adoption. Summer time in Europe is traditionally a time for at least one month to be spent away for most government officials. Christmas and Easter holiday seasons are similar and usually take 1 full week for Easter and mid-December until mid-January for Christmas.
8. The child will become our legally adopted child after the court adoption date and 30 day waiting period. We will accept full responsibility of this child as our own. Should we then, while still in country, decide we do not want to parent this child after being considered the legal parent(s), we agree to provide financial support for the child until the legal dissolution of the adoption is completed. We understand that we will be fully responsible for any court costs, attorney's fees, multiple travel or extended stay in country to dissolve the adoption. We agree to pay these fees. We understand that if we leave the child without these arrangements in place, we can be charged with child abandonment and potential arrest in the country of the child's birth. We understand this is a serious situation and agree to be responsible, to stay in touch with Children's House International and to finish all the steps necessary so that the child can be re-referred to another family.

Initials \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

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**Finalization:**

- 9. We understand that families adopting from Romania are required to submit (through CHI) 8 post placements, written by a social worker, quarterly for the first 2 years. These reports must include 8 recent photographs of the child.
- 10. We agree to send to CHI upon arrival home with our child, a complete photo copy of the adoption documents and translations given to us in country, including a copy of our child's passport and visa. Immediately upon receipt of our child's U.S. Certificate of Citizenship in the mail, we agree to send a photocopy to CHI.

**After reading and carefully considering all the above listed items, I/we understand the unique program details as written above and agree to comply with those requirements. I/We are comfortable with pursuing an adoption through Children's House International's Romanian Adoption Program.**

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prospective Adoptive Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prospective Adoptive Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Children's House International Representative