



Children's House  
International  
ADOPTIONS

## About Our Agency:

Children's House International is a non-profit adoption agency, licensed and in good standing since 1975. Our main office is located in Washington State, but we are also licensed in Utah, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana and Texas. We have worked non-stop in Eastern Europe since 1995. Over the years we have developed many programs throughout the world and have placed thousands of orphaned children in their forever families. We provide international adoption placement services to all U.S. citizens, regardless of the State they reside in.



Many of our staff members are also international adoptive parents. Because of this, they are well aware of the emotional feelings that go hand-in-hand with an adoption and are very passionate about the children and countries they represent.

Children's House International's licensed social workers and registered counselors are experienced in educating and guiding families through the international adoption process. They are able to provide Home Study and Post Adoption or Post Placement Report services to families living in Utah, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Texas and Washington State. In other states, we will assist families as they locate and secure the services of a licensed Hague Accredited home study agency in their area.



Note: None of the children seen on this page are available for adoption.



## Portugal Adoption Program

Dear Family,

Thank you for your interest in Children's House International's Portugal Program. We will be happy to assist you on your adoption journey to Portugal. We have a site where you can have immediate access to all our program documents, including Applications, Fees, and other documents you will need to start your adoption from Portugal.

Children's House began over 45 years ago and has been placing children from all over the world in loving homes ever since. CHI's Portugal program team is here to assist you.

**Parent Requirements:** Portugal places children with couples who have been married or in a committed relationship for at least four (4) years. Both Parents must be over the age of 25. Single persons who are over 30 years old may adopt. Portugal requires that each parent must be under the age of 60. Portugal also places with same sex married couples.

**Children:** Portuguese children available for adoption are older children with no identified special needs, sibling groups (2 or 3 children) or younger children with an identified special need. The children have been living in either foster homes in Portugal or in orphanages. They are referred from the Central Authority of Portugal once they are legally available for adoption. The religion is primarily Roman Catholic.

Choosing an adoption agency to work with is a very important decision in the adoption process. We encourage prospective adoptive parents to do their research, and make an informed choice.

For more detailed information on all of our programs, please visit our public document site at:

<http://www.childrenshouseinternational.com>

In each of the country sections you will find our Agency Application, Agency Retainer Agreement, and a written description of expected total fees detailed in our Financial Agreement and Disclosure. You will also find information on:

1. The number of adoption placements CHI does per year and the percentage of those placements that remain intact, are disrupted, or have been dissolved.
2. The number of parents who apply to adopt on a yearly basis, based on the data for the prior three calendar years.

Our mission at Children's House International is to provide children worldwide with permanent loving homes, and to provide families with the support they need to adopt and parent their children. We provide ethical adoption services.

To begin your adoption journey, please contact our staff at Children's House International at the numbers and email below. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions, or would like more detailed information regarding specific adoption programs. Additional information can be found on our web-site:

<http://www.childrenshouseinternational.com>

Thank you from all of us at  
Children's House International

**Time Frame:** Children's House estimates that once your paperwork is registered in Portugal, a referral (at the current time) takes approximately a year. Photos and medical information are provided, and CHI strongly suggests families seek a doctor with international specialty in adoption to review the information. Once the family agrees to adopt the child, a trip is arranged. You will return with the child to the USA and your adoption will be completed in the U.S., and you will be required register your adoption in Portugal. We will assist you with those details.

**Travel:** Both parents will have to travel to Portugal to meet the child for a 6-week transition period. During this transition period you will be slowly introduced to your child and have regular meetings with the local government social services. Portugal requires that you stay in an Airbnb, instead of a hotel, so that it stimulates the feeling of a home. If all parties agree to continue with an adoption, the parents will be granted guardianship of the child at the end of the transition period. You will obtain the guardianship order, passport, and other documents to obtain your child's IH-4 Visa and be allowed to return to the U.S. to complete the adoption. You will have to complete the post placement period requirements of your state of residency prior to adoption finalization. This could be up to 6 months. After adoption finalization in your local court, (you may need a local attorney to assist you) you can apply for your child's Certificate of Citizenship.

**Home Study:** We will help you find a local Hague accredited agency to prepare your home study. It takes approximately three-six months to complete your home study. Some states have more requirements than others. Your child will come home on an IH-4 Visa which means your child will not be an automatic U.S. Citizen upon arrival back in the USA. You will have to complete post placement reports during the guardianship period, which could be up to 6 months or more depending on the state you reside.

**Adoption Education and Required Educational Materials:** Children's House provides both information and support to our prospective parents, included in your adoption fees. This educational requirement of a minimum of 10 hours, online is mandatory. More specific training will be assigned once your child is referred to you. Your case manager and home study provider will help you select the courses most appropriate to your adoption. Please print out the certificate of completion when you have finished and upload it to the eadopt portal at Children's House for your file. Completion of these courses must be documented in your home study.

**Four steps to Begin an International Adoption:**

1. Talk to the Case Manager to receive an application.
2. Start you Home Study; take Adoption Education Courses and read suggested educational materials.
3. File the I-800A with USCIS along with having your fingerprints taken and submitted. Get your passports or check current passports to be sure validity shall last until at least three months after the intended date of departure.
4. Gather Dossier documents and forward Dossier to CHI

Your Children's House Team will be available to you and in contact with you during this entire process. We are here to help you and are looking forward to seeing your child unite with your family. You will be sent comprehensive travel information prior to and support from Children's House while you are in Portugal. To learn more, please contact our main office at 360-383-0623 or email us at [easterneurope@chiadopt.org](mailto:easterneurope@chiadopt.org)

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