



A Helping Hand  
ADOPTION AGENCY

# Adopting from Ukraine

## Program Facts

*Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe only after Russia. The country's largest city is Kiev, which is also the country's capital and economic, cultural, and educational center. The economic circumstances in Ukraine have led to an ever increasing number of orphans. Many orphanages struggle daily to provide for the basic needs of each child. Thousands of precious children need the security and love of a family. Adopting a child from Ukraine is a wonderful way to add a member to your family and provide a child a loving home. We invite you to open your heart and take this incredible journey of faith to Ukraine.*

- Boys and girls ages 3 and up are available.
- Special needs children are available at age 6 months, medical conditions vary in severity.
- Ukraine adoptions can take, on average, 8 to 12 months to complete.
- Children reside in the care of an orphanage while awaiting adoption.
- The child identification process is done during adopting parents' visit to the country. No referral is given before travel.
- Both adoptive parents are required to travel to Ukraine to adopt their child. However, one parent may be able to leave before the adoption is completed.
- The average length of stay in Ukraine is 30 days.
- The State Department for Adoption (SDA) and Protection of Rights of the Child is the only legal Ukrainian authority for adoptions.
- SDA processes the documents submitted by adopting parents and enters them into their database. Once an application is approved, the prospective adopting parents will receive an invitation to visit the Adoption Center.
- It takes approximately one to three months to obtain USCIS approval.
- Invitation to travel is about 2-3 months from submission of completed dossier.
- Travel is about 4-6 weeks from arrival of invitation. Both parents must travel, although one parent may leave after 1st week.

## Eligibility Requirements

*Review the following standards as you consider the program, and please contact AHH directly if you have any questions about how the requirements of this program will impact your ability to adopt from Ukraine.*

- Married couples are eligible to adopt and must be married for at least 1 year.
- Applicants to adopt must be at least 25 years old and no more than 55.
- There are no restrictions for having other children in the home.
- Apply to United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) for advanced approval to be eligible to adopt.
- Meet all required laws of the state where you reside.
- Complete a home study by a licensed agency.
- Meet the eligibility requirement of the Ukrainian adoption laws and provide necessary documents to the Ukrainian government.
- As a part of Ukraine adoption application process we ask prospective adoptive parents to complete a statement of faith. Please, email us or call our office at 859-263-9964 for details.

# Fee Outline

AHH has attempted to fully disclose all fees below. Other agencies may not do so. When comparing agency fees, please be sure that necessary fees in other fee schedules are not omitted. Be sure to compare “apples to apples.”

**A Helping Hand Adoption Agency Fee ..... \$6,250**

The Agency Fee is broken into the following 4 payments:

**Application Fee - \$250:** This payment is due before your application can be processed. It should be sent with your application or paid online the day you submit your application. We perform considerable work in the evaluation of applications; application fees are therefore non-refundable. If you have adopted from A Helping Hand before the **Application Fee** will be waived.

**Orientation Fee - \$2,000:** This payment is due at the time of your adoption orientation with your Family Advocate. It should be mailed to our office or paid online when your orientation is scheduled.

**Agency Fee at Dossier - \$2,000:** This payment is due two weeks before your dossier is turned into AHH. Your dossier cannot be sent to Ukraine until this payment has been posted to your account; therefore it is best to pay it at least two weeks before sending your dossier to our office.

**Agency Fee before travel - \$2,000:** Must be paid before any travel plans can be made.

**AHH Home Study Fee (KY Only)..... \$1,600**

If AHH is conducting your home study, half of this fee is due at the first home study visit and the balance is due at the last visit. This service is only provided to Kentucky residents. If you live in another state, you will need to pay a local agency directly to work with you on your home study, and their fee may vary significantly.

**United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) ..... \$830**

USCIS charges \$670 to process the I-600A, the petition to adopt internationally that you must file with USCIS. In addition to this fee, you will also pay \$80 per person to be fingerprinted. The total for couples is \$830; for singles it is \$750.

**County, State, and Consulate Authentication Fees.....\$350 - \$475 (estimate)**

Each of your dossier documents will need to be authenticated at the appropriate authorities in your state and at the Ukraine Consulate or Embassy. Since each state charges a different amount for this service, we are providing an estimate for the costs of this step. Your Family Advocate will be able to advise you on the exact authentication costs for your dossier.

**AHH Post-Adoption Deposit ..... \$600**

A deposit in the amount of \$600 is due for post-adoption reports at the time of the **Agency Fee at Dossier**. Your deposit will be returned as follows: \$200 refund upon completion of 12-month post adoption report; \$200 refund upon completion of 24-month post adoption report; \$200 refund upon completion of 36-month post adoption report. *Failure to complete post-adoption reports as scheduled will result in forfeiture of the deposit.*

**Foreign Fee**

**ESTIMATED EXPENSES FOR UKRAINE (Based on 35 day stay for 2 adults)**

Contact AHH Ukraine Advocate for more details

Ukraine Foreign Fees: .....	\$9,500 (\$15,000 for sibling group)
Ukraine Facilitator Fee (wired to Ukraine facilitator when Dossier is sent).....	\$4,000.00
International Airfare:.....	\$2,200.00-\$2,600.00
Donation to orphanage: .....	\$500.00 per child
Accommodations (Kiev and local region): .....	\$ 900.00 -\$2,100.00
Transportation in Ukraine (car/train/bus/plane):.....	\$ 600.00 -\$800.00
Food (cost fluctuates depending on personal preference): .....	\$500.00 -\$700.00
In-region facilitator/translator expenses:.....	\$500.00 -\$1,000.00
Child Medical Exam in Kiev: .....	\$100.00
Child's Visa:.....	\$300.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$ 27,730.00- \$ 30,355.00</b>

**Some Important Notes on the Fees:**

Some of the individual fees explained here are set, but others are variable depending upon the time of travel or your state of residence. We have given our best effort to provide an accurate range of costs that we believe will prove true for a high percentage of clients. **This is a reasonable guide based on past experiences; individual costs can fluctuate, and these figures do not constitute a contract.** Costs for obtaining birth certificates and passports are not included in this estimate and are payable directly to Vital Records or Passport Services Office. Furthermore, the cost for re-adoption is not included. Re-adoption is required for many families; for those for whom re-adoption is not required, it is still recommended. The cost depends on your state of residence.

# Grants

AHH works hard to keep our fees as low as possible. Additionally, we offer grants for certain families. If you have questions about whether or not you qualify for these grants, please contact us directly.

**Ministers' Grant**..... \$500

AHH provides this grant to full-time Christian ministers. This grant is applied at the time of the **Agency Fee at Referral**.

## Fee Schedule

One of the most common questions we are asked is for an explanation of the fee schedule. We have done our best to clearly explain all of the fees above, and we hope the following fee schedule is helpful in your financial planning. We have not attached an exact timeline to this schedule, because each family's adoption journey is different and it is very difficult to predict exact time-frames. However, this should serve as a general guide, and we'd be happy to answer any specific questions you may have.

### Stage 1: Application to Dossier Completion

For most families this stage takes approximately 3 to 6 months. The time-frame for this stage depends on several factors including the time that it takes for you to complete your home study and dossier, and the time that it takes for your USCIS office to process your I-600A. Most of these factors are beyond your control. In this stage, the following fees are due, typically in this order. Specifics for each of these fees are discussed in the Fee Outline section of this document.

**Application Fee**  
**Orientation Fee**  
**Home Study Fee**  
**USCIS Application Fee**  
**County, State, and Consulate Authentication Fees**

### Stage 2: Dossier Submission

You will submit your dossier to Ukraine as soon as it is complete. The following fees are due before your dossier can be sent to Ukraine. We recommend that you pay these fees at least 2 week prior to your dossier being submitted to avoid any delay in shipping your dossier to Ukraine.

**Agency Fee at Dossier**  
**Post-Adoption Deposit**  
**Ukraine Facilitator Fee**

### Stage 3: Travel

Typically once you get your travel invitation you will travel approximately 4-6 weeks later. In this stage, the following fees are due. Specifics for each of these fees are discussed in the Fee Outline section of this document.

**Ukraine In-country Fees**  
**AHH Travel fee**  
**International Airfare**  
**In-Country Travel and Accommodation Expenses**  
**Donation to Orphanage**  
**U.S. Visa for Your Child**  
**Childs Medical in Kiev**

***If you have any questions, please contact A Helping Hand Adoption Agency.***

**1.800.525.0871**

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