



## CARING HOMES FOR ORPHAN CHILDREN

an international adoption agency

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*"Caring Homes for Orphan Children" is a registered name of Tzivos Hashem Canada, Inc.*



October, 2012

### *Annual Report for the year 2012*

Our Agency, Tzivos Hashem Canada, Inc., also known under its registered trade name of Caring Homes for Orphan Children (CHOC), is accredited to work in the Russian Federation to facilitate adoptions for all Canadian families. With specific reference to our home province, we are a non-profit organization, licensed by the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services to facilitate adoptions from Russia under the Ontario's Inter-Country Adoption Act (IAA) on behalf of residents of Ontario. In Russia we have regional programs in: Moscow City, Moscow Region, St. Petersburg, Perm and Bashkortostan, Orenburg, Tomsk and Kazan. We are constantly in the process of trying to open up new avenues for our families to adopt, so please contact us for the most up to date information on countries and regions in which we are working.

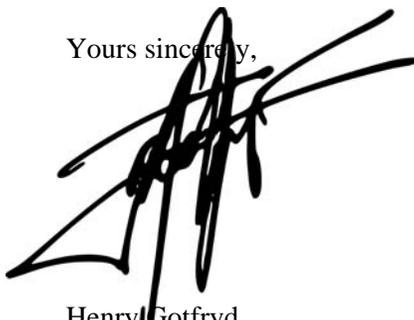
Our adoption program is non-denominational and serves applicants and children of all ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds. However, both Canada and Russia have very specific criteria. Some of these criteria are implied with the list of required documents over the next couple of pages. Other criteria are also discussed below under applicant eligibility and under children.

Since 1993, we have helped several hundred orphans find caring homes across Canada, from coast to coast. In the past year, we helped place 9 children, 5 of them in Ontario. Presently, we have 21 families waiting to adopt through our agency, 6 of these, residents of Ontario.

We are happy to report that many of our clients have adopted through us a second time as well, and some, even three times.

We are a full service agency, looking forward to assisting you with every step of your adoption process from now to homecoming and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



Henry Gotfryd  
Executive Director

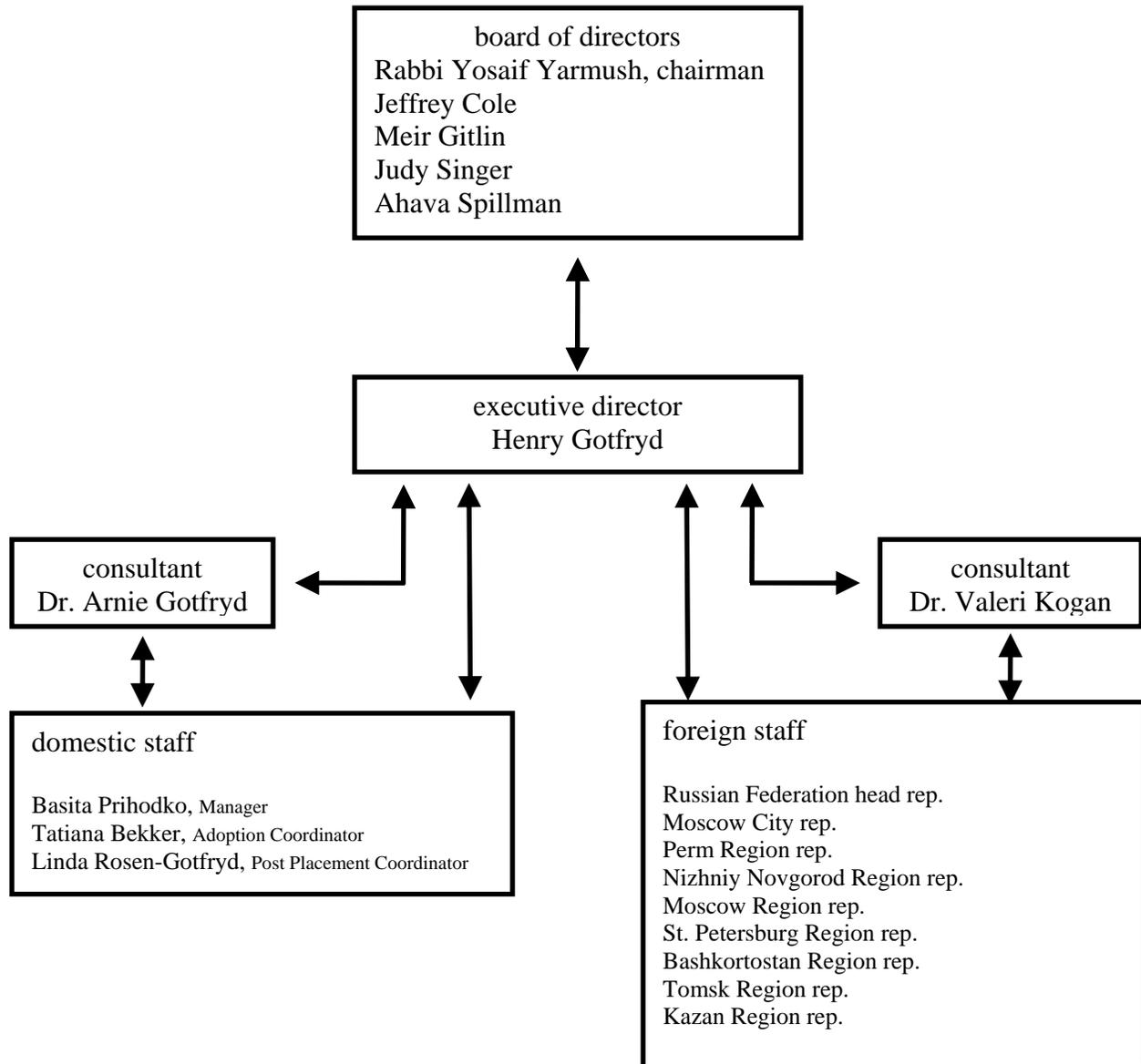
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## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

including board of directors and agency staff



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## COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Despite the best of intentions and training, it may come to pass that adoptive parents and CHOC staff may have differences of opinions requiring mediation. At CHOC we have a very simple process for airing complaints.

1.

Call our general number, (416) 630-2472, and speak to whoever may answer the telephone.

2.

If your complaint is not addressed to your satisfaction, please ask to speak with our manager of adoptions, Basita Prihodko, or e-mail her at [basita@chocadoption.com](mailto:basita@chocadoption.com) to pursue redress.

3.

If your complaint is not addressed to your satisfaction, please ask to speak with our executive director, Henry Gotfryd, or e-mail him at [info@chocadoption.com](mailto:info@chocadoption.com) to pursue redress.

4.

If your complaint is not addressed to your satisfaction, please ask to speak with our chairman of the board of directors, Rabbi Yosaif Yarmush, or e-mail him at [yosaify@gmail.com](mailto:yosaify@gmail.com) to pursue redress.

5.

If your complaint is still not addressed to your satisfaction, for Ontario residents, please contact our liaison officer at the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services to pursue redress.

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## SERVICES FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

International adoption is a government regulated process. It can, and indeed does, change from time to time with various government initiatives, both foreign and domestic. Our job is to help you in trying to get through this complicated, legal process, with the goal of fulfilling your family aspirations. Within this context, our agency provides a full range of services, including:

- Hosting of seminars and workshops on various topics, such as adoptive parenting, international adoption process, and medical issues in adoption;
- Preliminary consultation covering such issues as explanation of options in intercountry adoption, outline of process, understanding of special needs of orphan children, medical and developmental issues;
- Access, supervision, and evaluation of adoption homestudies and homestudy updates;
- (for Ontario applicants) Submission of homestudies and homestudy updates to the Ontario Ministry of Children & Youth Services, and monitoring of Ministry review and approval;
- (for other provinces) Coordination and endorsement of homestudies and homestudy updates with other Provincial authorities, licensed agencies, and accredited social workers;
- Preparation of application dossier to foreign authorities, including:
  - confirmation of document requirements;
  - homestudy;
  - Provincial and Federal clearances; including RCMP police clearances (fingerprints not required) and, for some Russian regions, also child welfare agency clearances for all past provincial residencies;
  - current medical evaluations of applicants and household members;
  - police records: international, federal and local;
  - passports, marriage certificates, and birth certificates;
  - financial evaluation, employment letters, right of residency;
  - photographs of applicants and their home;
  - standard agency documents; licence, homestudy summary, post-adoption obligations including supervision of placement and registration of child with foreign consulates;
  - applicant declarations, commitments, and requests;
  - additional documents as required;
  - notarization and authentication of documents;
  - translations, notarization and certification of translations;
- Submission of completed dossiers to foreign authorities;

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- Familiarization and orientation of applicants to countries and their heritage;
- Assistance with travel arrangements, accommodation, meals, drivers, tour guides and interpreters;
- Facilitation of child placement proposals from the adoption authorities;
- Facilitation of independent medical evaluation of the child proposed;
- Liaison with foreign authorities during the adoption process;
- Full escort with professional interpreter for all process steps;
- Assistance with Canadian embassy and visa requirements;
- Assistance with registration of the child with the foreign Consulates;
- Post-placement supervision and reporting to Canadian and foreign authorities as required;
- Assistance to adoptive applicants who wish to render humanitarian aid to child care institutions, as permitted;
- Links to post-adoptive support groups;
- Adoptive family reunions and social gatherings.



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## ADOPTING FROM RUSSIA

Russia is open and active in inter-country adoption. It has well-regulated legislation under which foreign agencies such as ours are accredited. Russia has proven to be the most consistently open and favourable to international adoption of all Eastern European countries over the past decades.

### APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Married couples and single women, including divorcees and widows, are eligible to adopt. Common-Law couples may also arrange to adopt, however, this would transpire through a more complicated process. Please contact CHOC for further information before beginning your international adoption journey if you are a common-law couple. Age limitations vary among districts, but in general, most regions allow for older applicants (see also the following paragraph under children's age). In all regions there are health regulations that may be relevant to your situation. Even minor health issues may require pre-screening by Russian authorities before we start the process. Please call to discuss your particular circumstances in confidence, preferably before beginning your home study.

### CHILDREN -- AGE, SEX, RACE, HEALTH

In the past, we have facilitated adoptions of both boys and girls, from 5 months to 7 years of age. However, today, by Russian law, children cannot be adopted internationally until they have fulfilled a minimum of 6 months on a federal data base. Actual age depends on when they entered the data base (e.g. if they entered at 3 months, they would be available at 9 months; if at 2 years, then at 2-½). Younger families may request younger babies (i.e. up to 24 months) or older children. Older families (e.g. forty plus), are restricted to toddlers or older. For specific age restrictions, please call with your particular circumstances.

The great majority of children that we have placed are Caucasian; although there are Asian as well as mixed race children that have also been placed.

Regarding the health of the children, the great majority have been in orphanage care since birth. Although most orphanages provide good nutrition and standards of medical care, depending on the particular circumstances of the child, we do occasionally see malnourished children being proposed for international adoption. Nevertheless, as a result of various aid programs, most orphanages are able to maintain at least basic requirements, and many even attain a one to one ratio of total staff to children. Thus stimulation levels can be higher, reducing the risk of severe developmental, psychological and medical problems due to prolonged institutionalization.

Orphanage children are often born premature and small. Developmental delays are common at time of placement. Nevertheless, most of the children we have placed are in the normal range of health within a few years of being in a good home. Indeed many excel intellectually, athletically and socially. On the other hand, some take longer to adapt and some of these may have or develop persistent medical conditions. For these reasons, we do all within our power to help our families obtain the best possible medical and social assessments and consultations before committing themselves to pursuing a particular adoption.

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Although CHOC cannot guarantee the availability or validity of information, it does make every possible effort to obtain full and accurate information from the foreign country, concerning the child's current and past medical and social history.

There are essentially two levels of evaluation each child passes before finalization of the adoption: government evaluations and independent evaluations. Eastern European style is that at birth, the child is diagnosed in a particular manner that does not map neatly into western medical terminology (for this reason Citizenship and Immigration Canada strongly recommends an independent medical evaluation). Nevertheless, much of the original evaluations are useful. They record available historical information, the child's weight, height, head circumference and take blood and urine tests, checking for AIDS, hepatitis and STD's. Children receive inoculations on schedule and get special medical interventions as needed. However, in some regions, this information may only be available when requested at the orphanage in person, during the family's first trip abroad.

CHOC also arranges independent medical evaluations for children to be adopted. These evaluations are performed by designated medical practitioners (formerly known as DMP's, now known as panel doctors) named by Citizenship and Immigration Canada. There are now quite a few doctors who are so designated by Canada, living in Russia. Typically the panel doctor will attend the orphanage with the applicant(s) and evaluate the child in their presence. Ontario strongly encourages a third doctor's independent evaluation as well.

*For a broader understanding of medical and social issues associated with international adoption, we highly recommend perusing through some of the medical (and other) information accessible, also through our web site links at [www.chocadoption.com](http://www.chocadoption.com). Also, prospective adoptive parents are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the many orientation and preparedness workshops available through international adoption related organizations and practitioners, some of whom are listed in our newsletters and links at the CHOC website. Ontario's Pride program (Parent Resources for Information, Development and Education, a provincial requirement in Ontario, part of the homestudy process; schedules can be accessed at [adoptontario.ca](http://adoptontario.ca)) also provides a valuable education for prospective adoptive parents, and other Canadian provinces may have similar educational programs. Please contact our CHOC staff for further information.*

## **TIME FRAME and TRAVEL**

In the past, it was occasionally possible to fast track an adoption, and our shortest took 17 days. Then again, at times, foreign (and even domestic) government "glitches" have caused very frustrating delays and we had a few adoptions that took 2 years and more. Nevertheless, on average, a CHOC adoption from Russia, from submission of dossier to homecoming, can usually be completed in just over a year. Also usually, from the time you may receive a proposal or invitation to travel, until the time you will meet your prospective child face to face is only a matter of weeks.

With regards to travel, parents should plan on 3 trips to Russia unless they are prepared for a minimum 6 week long second expedition. Russia has recently implemented a 30 day appeal period following the court adoption decree as opposed to the previous 10 day period. This will result in a 3-trip process for parents who may be unwilling to spend a month and a half away from home. The first trip is to meet and bond with a child, the second to attend the court hearing and the third to obtain documents and bring the child home.

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## A MORE DETAILED LOOK AT THE RUSSIAN ADOPTION PROCESS\*

The Russian international adoption process has proven to be occasionally unpredictable, both in terms of process, and in terms of timing. However, the following 15 step process gives a rough idea of what may be involved and associated time frames. In the following:

CEM	=	Canadian Embassy in Moscow
CHOC*	=	Caring Homes for Orphan Children (a registered trade name of Tzivos Hashem Canada Inc.)
CIC	=	Citizenship and Immigration Canada
CMFA	=	Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
DMP	=	Designated (by Canada) Medical Practitioner or Panel Doctor
MoE	=	Russian Ministry of Education
OMCYS*	=	the Canadian Provincial authority responsible for adoption
RC	=	Russian Consular offices (in Ottawa or Toronto depending on family's provincial residency)
SW	=	an approved adoption practitioner, usually a Social Worker

\* In Ontario, it is the Ministry of Children and Youth Services. In other provinces, the name may vary, but the function is similar.

### step 1) concurrent with #4

Parents review Russian criteria for parental approval (e.g. criminal and medical history, age, etc) as well as the present availability of children to meet their criteria, and determine whether they will pursue a Russian program.

### step 2) concurrent with #4

Parents register and enter into a contract with CHOC (this may follow #4).

### step 3) concurrent with #4

Parents hire a provincially approved SW to prepare a homestudy.

### step 4) 8 to 52+ weeks

SW prepares Homestudy and parents attend educational courses e.g. in Ontario, P.R.I.D.E. (parent resources for information, development and education).

### step 5) ~1 week

SW submits (or depending on the province, parents submit) homestudy, complete with supporting documents, to CHOC for review previous to submission to OMCYS. Simultaneously, parents submit application for citizenship, or to sponsor their future child, to CIC. In Ontario cases, CHOC reviews and submits homestudy to OMCYS for their review and approval. In other provinces, submission may be through parents or other agencies.

### step 6) 8 to 16 weeks

OMCYS reviews homestudy, CIC reviews citizenship or immigration kit. Parents, in consultation with CHOC, review the pros and cons of various regions in Russia, the various regions' adoption environments and criteria, the availability of children to fulfill parents' desires, distances to travel, etc. Parents, in consultation with CHOC, choose from the possible regions the one to which they will apply. Parents gather and submit supporting documents to CHOC (required documents vary from region to region and include such documents as birth certificates, marriage/divorce certificates, up to date passports, police clearances, medical &/or psychiatric/psychological assessments, bank references, employment verifications, financial statements, letters of commitment to provide post placement reports (from parents, SW, and CHOC), doctors' and SW licenses, deed of land, family pictures, etc, etc).

### step 7) concurrent with #6

OMCYS issues approval of parents and sends it to CHOC. CIC issues acknowledgement to parents, notifies CEM, and requests a letter of no objection from OMCYS. Parents forward a copy of CIC letter to CHOC.

### step 8) 6 to 8 weeks

CHOC assembles dossiers (one set is assembled for initial submission/application to the regional MoE offices; another is assembled for submission to the local court. Dossiers include the homestudy and supporting documents from parents and government agencies). CHOC notarizes the dossiers, couriers them to CMFA and RC for authentication and legalization, and sends legalized packages (in some cases through the parents' provincial

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authority) by international courier to CHOC in Moscow. (Depending on the region, sometimes these packages are prepared concurrently, sometimes at different times.)

## step 9) ~6 weeks

CHOC in Moscow has the English dossiers translated to Russian, has the translations certified and notarized, and couriers them along with the original English versions to the CHOC regional representative for initial submission/application to the regional office of MoE and in/for future submission to court.

## step 10) 12 to 52+ weeks

The regional CHOC representative walks the dossier into the regional office of the MoE and drops it off at the desk of the MoE regional officer. The regional officer will decide when to register the dossier as having been submitted (it may sit on his/her desk for an unspecified period of time before s/he gets around to registering it. Sometimes, the officer may ask for additional documents or clarification of a document or additional medical information on the family, etc, before accepting and registering the dossier). When a child becomes available (that is, a ward of state that has fulfilled a minimum of 2 months' time on the local or regional data bank and a further 6 months' time on the federal data bank and is now available for international adoption, having had no Russian nationals express interest in adopting the child or taking the child into a guardianship program, and furthermore, providing it is now the parents' turn and the child fulfils the parents' criteria), the MoE regional adoption officer will pass on to the CHOC rep, either an oral or a written invitation to the family for an appointment with the MoE or, along with this invitation, s/he may also pass along some preliminary information about the proposed child.

## step 11) 4 to 6 weeks

As mentioned above, some regions offer no preliminary information before the parents are invited to travel to meet with a prospective child. Other regions may issue some minimal information about the proposed child (a paragraph or so of medical/history along with possibly a picture) in advance of the parents traveling to meet with their prospective child. In the case of information being shared in advance, CHOC translates and presents the information to the parents who, in consultation with their SW, doctor, specialists (including some that may be suggested by CHOC), review the proposal and decide to go forward. (In some cases and regions where information is shared in advance, it may be possible to request even more detailed information, but only about carefully specified particulars; however, this will add months to the process, requiring notarized, legalized and authenticated, formal requests, etc.) Parents prepare to travel (a complicated process in which CHOC will advise); parents submit applications for visas (it takes 15 or more working days for the RC to issue a visa). CHOC prepares parents for travel, advising as may be necessary in: the filling out of visa questionnaires, obtaining of passport size photos, obtaining money orders for visas, plane tickets, hotel/accommodations, emergency contact information in Russia, reminding parents to set appointment to meet with adoption practitioner upon return to execute forms, which documents will require updating upon their return to Canada, things to expect when they arrive in Russia, costs of drivers and interpreters, possibilities of staying with host families, etc. CHOC forwards flight itinerary to representatives in Russia and arranges for DMP to meet with and assess the child (the DMP will usually be scheduled so that s/he can meet with the child in the presence of the parents while they are also visiting). Also preparatory to travel, CHOC forwards OMCYS mandated child's information forms to be completed by prospective adoptive parents while they are in Russia. These forms will be submitted to CHOC upon parents' return, and subsequently forwarded to OMCYS so that they may issue a letter of non-objection.

## step 12) ~1 week

Parents travel. If they desire, at a cost, they can be met at the airport by a private driver (carrying a sign with their names on it), and driven to their hotel or apartment (in some cases they may have the option of staying with a private family). Parents may also arrange to retain the driver and/or interpreter for their personal use while in Russia. CHOC's rep accompanies the parents when they attend at the MoE and onward to facilitate the adoption processes. They will be taken to the MoE office to either 1; pick up referral documents to the baby home (this in the case of preliminary information having already been provided in Canada), or 2; be presented with the minimal kind of preliminary proposal information as described previously. Parents will have been well prepared for reviewing this proposal, as they will have researched and reviewed Eastern European terminology such as: perinatal encephalopathy of hypoxic genesis, syndrome of movement disorder, psycho and motor developmental delay, etc. This preliminary information can be substantially out of date, as it is usually from the time that the child was first registered at the MoE (e.g. when the child first entered the orphanage from hospital). Parents are not required to accept this proposal (although one should always be reasonable, e.g. obvious medical reasons or age or gender discrepancies). If parents don't accept the first proposal they may be offered another, there and then, provided

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another child is available. Information will be in Russian and will be interpreted for the parents there and then with input from the MoE officer, CHOC's rep, and the interpreter. Parents are advised not to be afraid to ask questions. They should not be shy about asking CHOC's rep to explain things in detail - the rep is there to help them. Once a proposal is tentatively accepted, the child is formally assigned and parents are presented with a referral to the baby home. It is generally not done to reject a child from this point forward except for reasons of health. Unreasonable rejection cannot guarantee a further proposal. Parents are accompanied to the baby home where they will meet with the baby home doctor, who will share any info s/he has on the child. S/he will not give them documents, so they will have to take notes. Detailed notes must be taken in order to fill out OMCYS mandated child's information forms. Parents should not be afraid to ask questions. They will then meet the child and spend some time together, as they will on future days. Usually during their second visit to the baby home, the child will be examined by the DMP. There are many such doctors in Russia with whom CHOC has worked over the years. The parents will be able to discuss the child, its health & history, with both the doctor of the baby home and with the DMP. The DMP reviews existing files on the child, and personally does a medical assessment (preparing a report over the next days which can be forwarded to the parents in future as they may request). Should the DMP discover any serious medical issues about the child and the parents decide on this basis, or other reasonable grounds, to reject the proposal, they will be accompanied to a notary to have their rejection notarized. In most regions, it may be possible to attend either the same or the next day, to receive a new proposal at the MoE, provided another child is available. Where another child is not available within a reasonable time frame, parents may have to return to Canada to await another proposal and travel again. Before indicating their preliminary acceptance and desire to move forward, parents should also consult long-distance with their SW, medical consultants specializing in international adoption, etc. Consultation with their SW will set the foundation for execution of provincial "consent/refusal" forms when they return to Canada. As part of their application to proceed, while in Russia, parents will execute documents: confirming that they have met with the child and are aware of medical diagnoses, confirming that should the adoption be finalized they would be committed to registering the child with Russian consular authorities (CHOC's process requires parents to register their child in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Moscow office on their final trip), committed to providing post placement reports, and indicating that they would not have claims against Russian authorities regarding the child's health in future. An application is then forwarded to the regional court through the MoE. This application consists of the above mentioned documents, along with the child's documents, and a copy of previously mentioned court addressed dossier. Previous to returning home, parents fill out OMCYS mandated child's information forms and take mandated pictures for future submission to OMCYS.

***NOTE: It is important to remember that until parents have registered their acceptance of a proposal, indicating their desire to proceed, any Russian may adopt the child. Furthermore, even after acceptance documents have been registered, any close family member may still adopt the child. It is only after the expiration of the 30 day appeal period, following the court decree mentioned in the following sections, that the child is legally theirs.***

Also previous to returning home, for most all regions parents must attend at a Russian medical clinic (either in Moscow or in Tomsk), where reports on their health will be prepared by 8 different medical specialists, for future submission to the court. Court will not set an adoption hearing date without receiving these 8 specialists' reports. Appointment to attend clinic will have been arranged through CHOC before parents travel on this first trip.

## step 13) 8 to 12 weeks

Parents return home. They meet with their family, specialists, etc., as well as with their adoption practitioner who, subsequent to their long distance communications, will have prepared for a consent/refusal form to be submitted (sometimes through CHOC Toronto) to submit to OMCYS as may be applicable. CHOC will now submit child (and other) documents to OMCYS, requesting issuance of a letter of no objection, which OMCYS will forward to the CEM, the parents, and CHOC. Parents update their medicals and police clearances as may be necessary. For court purposes, all documents must be current. In Russia, some documents are valid for a year; some are only good for a few months. CHOC will advise parents of when and what documents require updating. Updated documents are all authenticated, legalized, couriered, translated, certified, etc, as previously outlined. In the case of sponsorship, during this time that parents await a court date, the DMP, with assistance of CHOC reps, prepares and submits his/her medical evaluations ("*green forms*") to the Overseas Health Program of the High Commission of CIC in London, Eng. The High Commission reviews and forwards their evaluation to the CEM, who notifies CHOC. CHOC forwards the evaluation to parents, along with a statement of confirmation form, which acknowledges the High Commission's evaluation, which the parents must execute before they can proceed. CHOC notarizes the form and forwards a copy, along with a copy of OMCYS' letter of non-objection, to the CEM. In both

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the sponsorship and citizenship routes, the CEM issues a letter for the Russian court, confirming it has sufficient documentation to issue travel documents for the child, if the court allows the adoption, and if the proper post court documents are submitted. CHOC Moscow rep picks up the letter and delivers it (sometimes directly to the court and sometimes to the MoE, who forwards it) to the regional court. In the case of the sponsorship route, CHOC delivers the original notarized statement of confirmation and a copy of the non-objection letter to the parents, along with a reminder to take these documents along on their second/third trip for further use. In the citizenship route, CHOC will forward only a copy of the non-objection letter and remind parents to take this, along with part II of their citizenship application and their receipt of payment of fees on their second/third trip, for further use. Parents should be prepared to deliver a short autobiographical presentation in court, for which they will also be briefed by the CHOC rep in Russia during their trip.

step 14) ~6+ or ~1 + ~1 (depending on whether parent(s) want to stay in Russia or return to Canada to wait out the appeal period)

2 to 4 months after returning home from their first trip, parents are invited to appear in court. Parents obtain visas (see previous process) and travel. (It used to be possible that parents could use double entry visas obtained during their preparations for their first trip, if the visas had not expired. Hopefully this may once again be possible in future, but for the time being, obtaining visas has become a complicated and ticklish process, through which CHOC advises.) Parents usually arrive in Russia a little early and are met as in first trip (see also preparations for first trip as maybe applicable). In some cases, parents may be required to once again attend at a Russian medical clinic should expired assessments (older than 3 months) have to be updated for court submission. Parents travel to their region and are taken by CHOC's regional rep to visit with their child over the course of a few days. Parents are accompanied to court by CHOC's regional rep where they attend at the adoption hearing. With the assistance of the interpreter, a court prosecutor & MoE social worker, the file is reviewed by the judge, who rules on the adoption. Following court, there is a thirty day mandatory appeal period. Parents can wait out expiration of the appeal period either in Russia (where they can visit their child in the baby home) or in Canada. Only one of the parents (given notarized power of attorney from the other), need be in Russia after the court hearing to run around applying for and collecting the child's documents, visiting various governmental offices to obtain the court order/documents, the child's birth certificate, adoption certificate, the child's new birth certificate with new names, and the child's new Russian passport. Parents should have local currency to pay the various fees associated with obtaining these documents. CHOC has the adoption documents translated and notarized in the region, and, once the parents are back in Moscow, CHOC (either with or without the parents), submits these documents, along with visa/citizenship application forms/receipts, to CEM. CEM prepares the Canadian visa in the child's Russian passport (along with written notification of citizenship as may be applicable). CHOC and/or parents attend at CEM to obtain the documents. With these in hand, the family applies to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow to register the child as a Russian Citizen moving to Canada. The united family returns to Canada.

step 15) 3 years

Parents forward copies of all child's documents to CHOC for their files. CHOC forwards post adoption checklist of documents to OMCYS. CHOC ensures the timely execution of post placement reports over the next 3 years, concurrently throwing the occasional get together and informational meetings.

Adopt again! A minimum of 18 months is recommended between homecomings.

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## ADOPTION COSTS

Our Canadian service fees are \$6,500 (exclusive of any applicable taxes); from registration, through to homecoming.

We also charge US\$17,000 to administer our foreign program. These \$US fees are payable in 2 equal installments; the first upon forwarding the dossier to Russia, and the second upon preparation to meet with a prospective child.

Also, since January of 2011, all Ontario licensed international adoption agencies (including CHOC, with its 20 years in practice) are required to provide not only accountant reviewed financial statements, but now, audited statements. This requirement results in an annual increase to our operating expenses which we will be covering by charging a one time fee of \$1,000 to each of our clients. This is extra to the above specified fees and is payable subsequent to registration.

Notwithstanding the above, it would be irresponsible for us, or anyone else to mislead you into believing that the above fees are the only expenses you will incur in the international adoption process. Other expenses that you will be incurring include:

social worker fees, Ontario PRIDE program or other provincially required educational programs, adoptive parents' police and medical certificates (in most regions medical evaluations by 8 specialists are required of prospective adoptive parents), government applications, passports, visas, foreign country consulate legalization fees, airfares, hotel accommodations, translations, couriers, process servers, notaries, drivers and interpreters, child's medical evaluations and other miscellaneous expenses. These costs are payable by parents upon their incurrence, and can easily total many thousands of dollars. Contact our staff and they can share information from some of our other parents' experience.

Finally, following the completion of your adoption, you will be required to provide four post placement reports to the Russian authorities, one at six months, one at a year, one at two years and one at three years. We charge \$2,000 to facilitate the submission of these four reports.

### **NOTE:**

CHOC's fees are subject to changes from time to time to cover changes in program costs and/or costs of Russian currency.

Fees are billed as services are rendered. Fees for services provided are non-refundable.

Should CHOC decide to terminate its international adoption operations in Ontario, any monies held towards provision of post-placement reporting will be transferred to an OIAA (Ontario Inter-Country Adoption Act) licensed agency to fulfill these reporting obligations.