

# The Adoption Process

## **Welcome/Intake**

We invite you to call the office nearest you to schedule a consultation. This first meeting gives us a chance to get to know each other. You'll learn more about adoption and our agency, and we'll learn more about you and your expectations. We will explain the adoption process and guide you toward the domestic or international program that best matches your needs.

## **Completing an Application**

When you are ready you will complete the application form and submit it to us with the application fee. Once we receive these materials, we will assign a social worker to your adoption who will contact you to schedule your first home study meeting.

## **Home Study**

Your social worker will support and advise you throughout the entire adoption process. Your social worker will also compile your home study - a report that is required before you can adopt a child. The home study is based on a variety of information including the required paperwork, interviews with your family, and the social worker's visits to your home.

## **Adoption Education**

MAPS offers an excellent adoption education course for all prospective adoptive parents. During this class you'll discuss a wide variety of adoption related topics and learn about the support resources available to you. This course also offers opportunities to discuss your questions and concerns while meeting other waiting families.

## **Placement**

If you choose to adopt through our domestic program, you will also need to create a profile - a letter illustrated with photos that tells prospective birthparents a little about you, your home, and your lifestyle.

If you choose to adopt through one of our international programs, you'll need to compile a dossier – an authenticated set of documents required by each country. A MAPS program coordinator, who has expertise about adoption and legal requirements in a particular country, will work closely with you throughout the process.

After your home study is completed, you will be ready to be matched with a child. If you adopt through our domestic program, you will be selected by a birthmother and then wait for the birth of your baby. If you adopt through one of our international programs, we will inform you when you receive a child referral. Wait times vary depending on which country you chose to adopt from. When you accept a child referral, you'll then wait for a travel date - the day you'll go abroad to bring your child home. In all adoptions we know the waiting is difficult - especially when you're waiting for someone so important. Your social worker understands your feelings and will be there to provide any support you may need.

## **Post-Placement**

Your child is home! During the next six months or so, your social worker will visit you to make sure that your family is adjusting well. Post-placement visits are required for both domestic and international adoptions and they must be completed prior to the finalization process. These visits also give you a chance to ask questions, share concerns, and show off your child!

## Agency Requirements

### To adopt through MAPS you must:

- Be at least 25 years old and typically not more than 45 years older than the child you seek to adopt. Actual age requirements depend on the program or country you chose to adopt from.
- Be in good physical, emotional, and mental health; and be able to parent a child.
- Have established and maintained a stable homelife for at least two years.
- Have a complete and current home study by a licensed agency that meets state requirements for domestic adoptions, or the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) requirements for international adoptions.
- Meet additional requirements specific to your program of choice.

## Agency Services

### HOME STUDY

The home study is a requirement of all adoptions and enables MAPS to assess and prepare each family for adoption. In states where MAPS is licensed to provide home study services, one of our experienced social workers will work closely with you to gain a better understanding of your expectations and unique needs. They will serve as a consistent source of support for you throughout, and following, the process. The MAPS home study staff will help you prioritize the required paperwork and will answer questions that arise as you are completing it. When your home study is complete, we will also submit and monitor your application to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on your behalf. If you do not live in one of the states in which we offer home study services, we will help you find a suitable home study agency near you.

The home study is the time for MAPS to help you prepare for the challenges that are distinct to adoptive parenting. To supplement your home study, we will also help prepare you through our adoption education class. This stage is considered the first stop along the adoption journey and requires you to open your hearts and home to follow the path towards parenting. You will be glad you did.

### PROGRAM PLACEMENT SERVICES

MAPS has placed over 4000 children worldwide with loving, permanent families.\* Whether you complete your home study through a MAPS regional office or with one of our valued partner agencies, we are able to work with families throughout the U.S. to facilitate the placement of a child.

Families should be aware that international adoption is complex and involves many variables and some inherent risks. Despite MAPS' best efforts and years of experience, in rare cases circumstances beyond our control may affect the adoption process or the outcome. For example, a government may unexpectedly change the adoption requirements or even close its adoption program, an adoption could be denied by a court or other bureaucratic body, or a birthparent might change her mind about relinquishment. While these scenarios are unusual, it is important to know that these risks do exist, and that MAPS will support our clients in exploring other options should such a situation arise.

\* Annual statistics for children placed through each program are available upon request.

### POST PLACEMENT SERVICES

Adopting through MAPS means becoming part of a lifelong support network. In the initial months after placement, your social worker will visit with you during your adjustment period to answer any questions, provide support services, and walk you through the post placement process. We also help families to network with each other through local events and will always be available to serve as your primary resource for adoption support.

# MAPS Domestic Infant Adoption Programs

## Domestic Program

Through the domestic program we work with women that have decided to make an adoption plan for their children and would like to personally select the family. In making this decision they are seeking caring families willing to love and parent these new lives. We will work with you and the birthparent(s) to provide counseling and support services to create an ideal birth plan for everyone involved. We are committed to responsible preparation and support for the adoptive parents, the birth parents, and the children. Families participating in these programs must complete their home study through a MAPS regional office. This program is specialized to working with pregnant women typically within the state of Maine. Occasionally, we also work directly with pregnant women residing in other states throughout the U.S.

**Children:** Newborns of varying racial and ethnic backgrounds

**Family requirements:** Have an established and stable homelife for at least two years. Must be open to either gender.

**Time frame:** Two to eighteen months between home study and child referral.

**Cost:** \$600 Application Fee + \$30,000 program fee.

**MAPS Application Fee:** \$600

**MAPS Program Fee:** \$30,000 This fee covers counseling with birth parent(s), up to \$3,000 in approved living/medical expenses and legal costs associated with obtaining routine surrender and release or waiver. If birth mother resides outside of Maine, additional in-state counseling and in-state legal fees will apply (varies depending on state).

## Domestic Networking Program

This program allows MAPS to network with approved agencies throughout the country to bring birthmothers and adoptive families together. The program is open to families that have completed a home study through MAPS and is intended for those seeking to adopt an African-American, bi-racial, or Hispanic child.

**Children:** Newborns of all races.

**Time frame:** Three to twelve months between home study and child referral.

**Cost:** \$3,000 networking fee to MAPS + \$14,000 - \$40,000 (dependent on network agency costs)

## Identified Adoption

You may identify a birthmother on your own and then complete your adoption through MAPS. You'll benefit from the expertise of our staff and the birthmother will receive the counseling services that are crucial to her well-being and a successful placement. We will also be there to support you, the adoptive parents, through the sometimes-complex process. If you complete your adoption through an attorney, MAPS can provide you with adoption education classes, home study, and post-placement services.

**Children:** Newborns

**Family requirements:** Prospective adoptive parents must be a minimum of 25 years of age and demonstrate a stable lifestyle of at least 2 years; birthparents agree to enter the My Choice Program for full services.

**Time frame:** The time frame is dependent upon you and the birthmother's due date.

**Cost: \$4,725 (single) - \$4,825 (couple)** which includes: Cost of home study (\$2,600-\$2,700, includes application fee, home study & adoption education), home certification (\$225), post-placement services (\$900, includes three visits), and MAPS counseling services (\$1,000; covers 10 hours). Travel by MAPS staff, birthmother counseling in excess of 10 hours, post-placement reports in addition to initial 3 required by Maine, birthmother pregnancy related expenses and attorney fees are additional.\*

## Private Adoption

If you choose to adopt through an attorney, MAPS will conduct your home study and provide adoption education classes. MAPS will also provide post-placement supervision, which is required by the court.

**Cost: \$2,900 (single) - \$3,000 (couple)**, which includes: Cost of the home study (\$2,600-\$2,700, includes application fee, home study & adoption education) and one post placement visit (\$300). Private attorney fees are additional.\*

*\*MAPS is not responsible for legal process pertaining to the termination of parental rights.*

# MAPS Home Study Office Fees

Below is the fee structure for completing your home study through the MAPS Boston office. Fees are as of July 1, 2008 and are subject to change without notice.

Fee	Amount	Due
Application	\$400	with application materials
Processing	\$1,200	when social worker is assigned
Home study	\$2,500	before home study is released
Adopt Ed	\$200 single/ \$300 couple	when social worker is assigned
Post-placement supervision	\$325/report	when child referral is accepted
Annual/CIS update	\$150	when update begins
Abbreviated home study (required for certain countries)	\$100	before home study is released
Home study addendum	\$150	when addendum begins
Subsequent application	\$250	with application materials
Subsequent adoption home study	\$2,000	before home study is released

## **APPLICATION FEE**

The application fee must accompany your application. This pays for MAPS to review your application and open a file for your family. This fee is non-refundable.

## **HOME STUDY & ADOPTION EDUCATION**

The home study fee is due before the home study is released. This fee covers social worker time, social work supervision, and the home study report. Adoption education is a required part of the home study for every adoption. Please refer to our website for class schedule.

## **PROCESSING**

This fee applies to all adoptions. It covers our administrative costs as well as our cost in working on your behalf with other programs, agencies, and government officials in the United States. It also covers the average cost of all communication expenses including telephone, fax, overnight deliveries, and postage. This portion of the fee is due when your social worker is assigned. This fee is non-refundable.

## **POST-PLACEMENT SUPERVISION**

Post-placement visits are required by the state licensing regulations to ensure adoptive families and children have access to ongoing professional support in the first six months following placement.

## **SUBSEQUENT ADOPTION APPLICATION AND HOME STUDY**

If you have previously completed a home study through MAPS, your home study and application fee are offered at a reduced cost. If you are moving into MA from another state and have a current home study written within the past 12 months, you also qualify for a MAPS home study at a reduced cost.

## **ADDITIONAL FEES**

Home studies are valid for one year. If a placement has not occurred by then, an update will need to be added to your original home study. A fee of \$150 will be charged for this service. Home studies must also be amended if there is a change in your family's residence or other significant items. A fee of \$150 will be charged for the Addendum.

# MAPS International Adoption Fees

There are typically three basic fees when adopting internationally – the application fee, the agency fee, and the foreign program fee, which is specific to the country from which you will be adopting.

The MAPS fees listed below are effective as of November 7, 2008 and are subject to change.

## **APPLICATION FEE: \$600**

The application fee is due with the application materials. It covers the review of application materials and assessment of prospective adoptive applicant for a specified international program.

## **AGENCY FEE: \$6,300 – 10,500**

This fee is due when a family has been formally accepted into a MAPS international program; for certain programs this fee may be paid in two separate installments. The agency fee covers state-side MAPS professional and administrative costs incurred in providing adoption services. These include, but are not limited to: assisting with dossier preparation, coordination with in-country representatives and entities such as government officials or bureaucratic bodies, liaison for information regarding child assignment, travel preparation, and the costs associated with general agency overhead.

The agency fee for China, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Peru: \$6,300. For Nepal: \$9,000. For India: \$10,500. For Nepal and India programs, there is an additional component of the agency fee (Nepal: \$2,700 and India: \$5,200) that is used for adoption program expenses and humanitarian aid in these countries. The agency fees for the India and Nepal programs are greater than that of the other programs due to the higher staffing pattern and cost of operations for these programs, which include a MAPS' employee in India. Approximately 30-40% of a combination of the India agency fee and foreign program fee, may be designated for humanitarian aid purposes. Of the \$10,500 agency fee, approximately 80% is used for stateside adoption program expenses; of the \$7,000 foreign program fee, approximately 80% is used for the in-country adoption processing expenses, which include the CARA approved orphanage donation of \$3,500 and in-country administrative/operational expenses.

\*There is a non-resident fee of \$1,000 for families residing outside the continental U.S. This is due with the agency fee.

## **FOREIGN PROGRAM FEE: \$3,650 – 19,000**

This fee is country-specific and covers most in-country expenses related to the processing of your adoption, e.g. administrative costs such as shipping, communications, filing fees, etc. This fee is generally due following child acceptance; exception is Kazakhstan for which program it is due prior to travel. Please refer to individual country page or packet for information regarding when foreign program fees are due.

<b>Country Program</b>	<b>Foreign Program Fee</b>
China	\$3,650
India	\$7,000
Kazakhstan	\$19,000 <b>We are not accepting applications for Kazakhstan at this time</b>
Nepal	\$12,300
Peru	\$7,500
Russia	\$14,750

Fees associated with international adoption programs may be used for special projects, cultural events and/or humanitarian aid projects. More specific information will be made available upon request.

Dossier and post-placement translation and processing fees are included in the foreign program fees listed above, with the exception of China (\$1,640), Peru (\$1,000), Russia (\$1,500) and Kazakhstan (\$2,000). All authentication and processing fees are the responsibility of the client and vary depending on country.

Not included in the foreign program fee are mandatory orphanage donations for China (\$3000, may be up to \$5000 in some provinces) and Kazakhstan (\$300). Kazakhstan also has an Embassy family registration fee of \$180. The Russia program requires a refundable post-placement deposit of \$1,000.

### **TRAVEL FEES**

Clients will be responsible for their travel expenses, as well as their child's travel and visa processing expenses (i.e. medical exam, passport photos, visa application).

### **ESCORT FEES**

We offer an escort option for Kazakhstan. If the escort option is chosen, payment must be received 3-4 weeks prior to travel. For Kazakhstan the escort fee is \$6,000 from Almaty to the U.S. (an additional \$1,150 is applicable if a child is from a region outside Almaty) and includes the escort's round trip flight, lodging and meals for escort and child, the escort's visa, medical insurance for both escort and child, the child's visa application fee, and the child's flight to the U.S. The family is responsible for booking and the cost of a hotel for the escort to stay before returning to Kazakhstan from the U.S. Escorts for India are available on a case-by-case basis; the fee is \$4,000 and covers the same as noted above, with the child's airfare being additional.

### **REDUCED FEES**

Returning MAPS families receive a reduction of \$650 from their agency fee. MAPS offers reduced fees for adoption of sibling groups (see program pages for specifics). Additionally, pending approval of the Executive Director, MAPS may reduce fees in special cases.

### **REFUNDS**

The application fee and agency fee are non-refundable; however, they are transferable among MAPS adoption programs. If a prospective adoptive family should change from one program to another, they are responsible for any difference in fees (e.g., agency fee, foreign program fee, extra expenses, etc.). If a country program closes after a child has been assigned, the foreign program fee will be returned - less any expenses that have already been incurred by MAPS. If a family withdraws for any reason, the fees they have paid to MAPS are non-refundable. In the event that the prospective adoptive parents are accepted by USCIS, their home study agency, and MAPS, but are rejected in the foreign country by any bureaucratic body, at any stage of the process, or in court, there will be no refund of fees. If unique circumstances arise, they will be reviewed by the Executive Director on a case-by-case basis.

### **ADDITIONAL EXPENSES**

There are additional expenses associated with adoption programs that are separate from the application, agency, and foreign program fees. For an estimate on the anticipated costs associated with a specific international adoption program, please refer to the individual country packets or call MAPS for assistance.

## China

Due to various socio-economic factors there are thousands of children in China available for international adoption – most are female. There is an urgent need for the children waiting in orphanages for loving families to take them home. All are legally available for adoption as a result of abandonment. Due to the wonderful relationships MAPS has built throughout the years, the process is streamlined and dependable.

**CHILDREN:** The available children are approximately eight months to 13 years of age, the majority are female infants and toddlers. Healthy male children are available, but the timeframe for referral may be longer.

**FAMILY REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants must be between 30 and 50 (up to 55 for waiting children). Singles are not eligible. Parents 30-45 are eligible for infants. Parents 46-49 will be assigned a 1-3 year old. Married minimum of 2 years, 5 if previously divorced, no more than 4 divorces total. Must be healthy mentally and physically – please consult MAPS regarding requirements. Must have high school diploma, meet required income regulations, family size limits, religion limitations etc. Any criminal record will be reviewed on a case by case basis. *\*Currently accepting applications from families who are applying to MAPS China Program and a 2<sup>nd</sup> MAPS program. Contact us for further information as needed.*

**TIME FRAME:** Child referral is approximately 32+ months from time of dossier registration by the CCAA and parents can expect to travel approximately 5-6 weeks after acceptance of the child referral. Wait for referral quite possibly could increase.

**TRAVEL:** Your stay will be approximately 2 weeks. If referred child is from Guangdong province trip may be up to 3 weeks. Both parents do not need to travel, but it is preferred. A MAPS group leader will accompany groups of 4 or more families and our bilingual coordinator will be with you during your entire stay.

**FOREIGN PROGRAM FEE:** The MAPS foreign program fee for China is \$3,650 (\$5,650 for twins), payable within 10 days of child acceptance. This fee covers in-country adoption program services/expenses. This does not include dossier preparation or a mandatory orphanage donation of \$3,000 (up to \$5,000 in some provinces). Additional fee for twin adopted at the same time \$2,000 (\$1,000 for stateside adoption program expenses/services, \$1,000 for in-country adoption program expenses/services).

### **Other expenses to plan for:**

Home study and post-placement fees	Approximately \$2,000-\$6,000
Immigration application (I800A)	\$670
USCIS fingerprints (per adult in home)	\$80
Dossier submission/translation	\$1,640
Mandatory orphanage donation	\$3,000 (may be up to \$5,000 in some provinces)
Child's U.S. visa (per child)	\$400
Travel to and from China	Approx. \$900-\$1,400 per person
Travel within China	Approx. \$250-\$600 per person
Lodging, food, necessities (parents, child/ren)	Approx. \$1,500-\$2,000 depending on accommodation
Miscellaneous fee for orphanage banquet, ground transport (incl. most sightseeing)	Approx. \$500
Travel for child/ren	Approx. \$150-\$1,300 per child
Visa medical exam	Approx. \$65 per child + any lab work

### **Miscellaneous expenses that vary case by case:**

<i>Physical exams for parents for dossier</i>	<i>Approx. \$25-\$150 per person</i>
<i>Certification /Authentication of Dossier</i>	<i>Approx. \$350-\$500</i>
<i>Family passports &amp; visas</i>	<i>Approx. \$100-\$200 per person</i>
<i>Possible add'l. Chinese official fees</i>	<i>Approx. \$100-\$400</i>
<i>Miscellaneous personal expenses</i>	

\*5,050 for twins (additional \$1,000 for US program expenses/services, \$1000 for in-country expenses)

**PROGRAM CONTACT:** For more information call Betsy Bewsey at 207-775-4101 or email: [betsyb@mapsadopt.org](mailto:betsyb@mapsadopt.org) at MAPS, 277 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101.

**[www.mapsadopt.org](http://www.mapsadopt.org)**

# India

India has a long history of adoption to the United States. For over a decade MAPS has worked with a multitude of wonderful orphanages countrywide to place children in caring homes. There is a great need for families for the children residing in orphanages who are legally available for adoption and have little hope of being adopted in their country of origin. Indian parents do adopt in increasing numbers; nevertheless, there are many more children needing families.

**CHILDREN:** Infants, toddlers, and school age children. Siblings are possible but are usually older. Each child is unique and most of the children are healthy; some children with special needs are available.\*Currently accepting applications from families requesting non special needs children over 4 years old or children under 4 years old with special needs. Contact us for further information as needed.

**FAMILY REQUIREMENTS:** Couples and single women may apply. For couples: combined age of 90 or under, minimum age of 30, maximum age of 55. For non-special needs children under 7 years of age parent(s) must be NRI/OCI\* (and 42 or younger for infants). Single women accepted, must be 30-55 (42 or younger and NRI/OCI for infants). Couples must be married a minimum of 5 years (some case-by-case flexibility for 2+ years of marriage with previous history of committed relationship). For older children general guideline is that parent should be no more than 45 years older than child. Possibility of more flexibility for those adopting special needs children. Qualified families requesting infants must be open to children up to 18 months of age at time of referral.

**TIME FRAME:** For non-special needs children under 2 years (NRI/OCI families eligible only), referral can take 6 to 12 months after a family has achieved I-800A. For non-Indian families non-special needs children 7 years and older are available with a wait of up to 6 months. Wait times for special needs children vary and some waiting children are available for referral immediately. Dossier completion includes notarization and authentication of the documents through the Secretary of State and Indian Consulate. After the child assignment, the Indian court process can take 4-7 months plus up to one month for U.S. CIS and visa processing.

\*NRI = Non-resident Indian; OCI = Overseas Citizen of Indian (OCI card holder)

**TRAVEL:** One or both parents may travel and stay is 7-10 days. MAPS will assist traveling parents with arrangements.

**FOREIGN PROGRAM FEE:** The MAPS India foreign program fee is \$7,000 (payable following acceptance of child assignment and No Objection Certificate). Of this fee \$3,500 is the orphanage maintenance fee, which goes towards care of the child. The remaining is applied to in-country adoption processing and administrative/operational expenses. \$7,000 for a second child (sibling) adopted at the same time (breakdown: \$3,500 agency fee and \$3,500 foreign program fee).

## Other expenses to plan for:

Immigration application (I800A)	\$670
USCIS fingerprints (per adult in home)	\$80
Passports/visa fees	Approximately \$100-\$200 per person
Travel to and from India	Approximately \$1,200-\$1,800 per person
Travel within India	Approximately \$500 per person
Lodging, food, necessities for parents and child/ren	Approximately \$100-\$200 per day depending on accommodation
Travel for child/ren	Approximately \$500-\$1,000 per child
Travel and lodging costs for MAPS India staff*	Approximately \$20-\$50 per day
Fee for car and driver, if needed	Approximately \$20-\$50 per day
US visa exam for child/ren	Approximately \$25 + any lab work
Escort fee (if applicable)	\$4,000
Child's Visa	\$400

\* if orphanage is outside Pune or Delhi

## Miscellaneous expenses that vary case by case:

Home Study and post-placement fees	Approximately \$2,000-\$6,000
Notarization & authentication/certification	Approximately \$200-\$300
Physical exams for parents for dossier	Approximately \$25-\$150 per person
Medical exam/lab expenses for child as requested by adoptive parent	Approximately \$100
Additional orphanage expenses (such as medical)	
Miscellaneous personal expenses	

**PROGRAM CONTACT:** For more information on the India program, please call Kate Emery or Sarah Groff at 207-775-4101, or email: [katee@mapsadopt.org](mailto:katee@mapsadopt.org) or [sarahg@mapsadopt.org](mailto:sarahg@mapsadopt.org) at MAPS, 277 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101.

[www.mapsadopt.org](http://www.mapsadopt.org)

# Kazakhstan

MAPS has been completing adoptions from Kazakhstan since 1993. Since that time many wonderful children have come home to their forever families.

**CHILDREN:** Infants, toddlers, and children up to 4-5 years of age are available. Sibling groups are very rare. Most are healthy, though some have minor health problems or more complicated disabilities. We are made aware of serious health issues and have placed many of these children successfully with families willing to take on this responsibility. Families must be open to children of Asian ethnicity. Children are tested for Hep B, Syphilis and HIV.

**FAMILY REQUIREMENTS:** Couples and single women with no more than 45 years between the youngest parent and child may apply. Married couples are given preference in Kazakhstan. Both adoptive parents must be US citizens.

**TIME FRAME:** An invitation to travel is usually received 6-12 months after dossier submission. There is limited child information available prior to travel. Travel usually occurs within 3-6 weeks after the invitation is received.

**TRAVEL:** The in-country adoption process will take approximately 8-11 weeks to complete. Families can choose to complete the adoption in 1 or multiple trips. If they choose to complete the process in one trip, the stay will be approximately 8-11 weeks (only 1 parent needs to stay after the court hearing). If they choose 2 trips, the 1<sup>st</sup> trip will last approximately 4-6 weeks and the 2<sup>nd</sup> trip will be approximately 3-4 weeks later and will last 5-7 days. Only one parent is required to return for the 2<sup>nd</sup> trip. It may be possible to have an escort for the 2<sup>nd</sup> trip. MAPS will arrange your travel and accommodations in Kazakhstan. Our coordinator and translator will greet and accompany you for the duration of your stay.

**FOREIGN PROGRAM FEE:** The MAPS Kazakhstan foreign program fee is \$19,000 (payable prior to travel to Kazakhstan). Typically 85% of this fee covers the in-country adoption program expenses/services and 15-20% may be used for humanitarian aid.

**Other expenses to plan for:**

Immigration application (I600A)	\$670
USCIS fingerprints (per adult in home)	\$80
Passport/visa fees	Approximately 100-\$200 per person per trip
Travel to and from Kazakhstan	Approximately \$1,800-\$2,200 per person per trip
Travel within Kazakhstan	Approximately \$300-\$500 per person per trip
Travel for child/children	Approximately \$800-\$1,400 per child
Lodging, food, necessities for parents and child/ren	Approximately \$100-\$150 per day depending on accommodation
Fee for translator	Approximately \$500 plus weekend rate of \$35-\$50 per day add'l
Fee for car and driver	Approximately \$200 per week
Translation & Processing (dossier & post placement) fee	\$2,000 (covers translation of documents stateside & in-country)
Child's physical	\$170 + any lab work
Photographs of child	Approximately \$25-\$30 per child
Child's U.S. visa	\$400
Child's registration	\$100
Embassy registration	\$180
Embassy re-registration (if necessary)	\$150
Escort fee (optional)	\$7,150

**Miscellaneous expenses that vary case by case:**

Home study and post-placement fees	Approximately \$2,000-\$6,000
Notarization & certification/authentication	Approximately \$1,500-\$2300
Maine Secretary of State fees	Approximately \$110
Physical exams for parents for dossier	Approximately \$200-\$500
Medical exams/lab expenses for child as requested by adoptive parents	Approximately \$100-\$200
Recommended but discretionary gift to orphanage	\$300
Miscellaneous personal expenses	

**PROGRAM CONTACT:** For more information on the Kazakhstan program, call Libby Walch at 207-775-4101, or email: [libbyw@mapsadopt.org](mailto:libbyw@mapsadopt.org) at MAPS, 277 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101.

[www.mapsadopt.org](http://www.mapsadopt.org)

# Nepal

Nepal is a spectacular country, both geographically and culturally. Adoptions from Nepal are occurring in greater numbers than ever before. The Social Welfare Committee issues a final adoption decree for Nepalese children. Due to political turmoil and instability within the Nepalese government, adoption processing timeframes may change. MAPS works closely with the State Department and U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu to monitor advisories for traveling families.

**CHILDREN:** Healthy children of both genders, from 10 months to middle school age, are available. Sibling groups and twins are not available. Basic medical information is provided at the time of child referral. Photo(s) available after formal acceptance of the child.

**FAMILY REQUIREMENTS:** Couples with documented infertility and single women are accepted. The minimum age, for couples, is 30 years old and for infants there should not be more than 45 years between the youngest parent and the child (some flexibility possible). Singles need to be between 35 and 55 years. Couples must be married at least 4 years. If there are child(ren) in the home, families must maintain birth order and adopt a child of the opposite gender. Families cannot have children of both genders already in the home.

**TIME FRAME:** A child referral, after dossier submission, typically takes 6-8 months for an infant, 0-3 months for a child over the age of 2. Dossier preparation only includes notarization of documents. Administrative and judicial processing takes approximately 6 months after referral and travel follows quickly.

**TRAVEL:** One or both parents must travel. One trip is required, which ranges from 10 days to 2 weeks.

**FOREIGN PROGRAM FEE:** The MAPS Nepal foreign program fee is \$12,300 (payable upon acceptance of child assignment). Typically 80-90% of this fee covers the in-country adoption program expenses/services and 10-20% goes towards humanitarian aid.

**Other expenses to plan for:**

Immigration application (I600A)	\$670
USCIS fingerprints (per adult)	\$80
Visa (per person)	\$60
Travel to and from Nepal	Approximately \$1,500-\$2,000 per person
Travel within Nepal	Approximately \$50 per person
Travel for child	Approximately \$500-\$1,000 per child
Lodging, food, necessities for parents and child/ren	Approximately \$100-\$140 per day depending on accommodation
4-5 Days lodging expenses for MAPS Coordinator	Approximately \$500-\$800
Fee for car and driver if needed	Approximately \$200-\$300
Child's U.S. Visa	\$400
Child's visa photos	Approximately \$10 per child
Child's visa medical + any lab work per child	Approximately \$25 per child

**Miscellaneous expenses that vary case by case:**

Home study and post-placement fees	Approximately \$2,000-\$6,000
Family passports & visas	Approximately \$100- \$150 per person
Indian visa (if traveling through India)	Approximately \$60 per person
Thailand transit visa for child	Approximately \$50 per child
Notarization & authentication	Approximately \$50-75
Physical exams for parents for dossier	Approximately \$25-\$150 per parent
Medical exams/lab expenses for child, as requested by parent	Approximately \$100-\$200

**PROGRAM CONTACT:** For more information on the India program, please call Kate Emery or Sarah Groff at 207-775-4101, or email: [katee@mapsadopt.org](mailto:katee@mapsadopt.org) or [sarahg@mapsadopt.org](mailto:sarahg@mapsadopt.org) at MAPS, 277 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101.

# Peru

MAPS became licensed to place children from Peru on August 15, 2003. It was with great anticipation and enthusiasm that we launched this program because there are many children in need of permanent homes.

**CHILDREN:** Primarily toddlers, but also older children, special needs, and sibling groups are available. Their heritage may be Hispanic, Indian, or Mestizo (a blend of Spanish and Indian ancestry).

**FAMILY REQUIREMENTS:** Adoptive parents must be at least 25 years old and no older than 55; couples and singles may apply. Age guidelines: Couples under 40 (average of combined ages) may request children aged 3 and under; couples with average age 41-50 may request children 4-6, couples with average age 51-55 must be open to children 7 or older. Single women can request a child that is 5 or older, or a younger child with special needs. Single men may request a child 6 or older. There may be other children in the household.

Families who reside in MA, ME, NH or VT must have a MAPS home study. Residents of the following states must work with the MIMDES-licensed agency in their own state for placement and home study: AL, CA, CT, DC, FL, GA, HI, IA, MD, MN, NC, NJ, NY, PA, SC, VA, WA, WI.

**TIME FRAME:** Dossiers are submitted to MIMDES (Ministerio de la Mujery Desarrollo Social or Ministry for Women and Social Development). MIMDES assigns a child (infant or toddler) to the adoptive family generally within 12 -18 months. Referral time for children 5 years and older and sibling groups is generally 4-5 months. Travel will follow approximately 2 weeks following assignment.

**TRAVEL:** Adoptive parents must travel. Total trip is approximately 3-4 weeks. For couples, one parent may return to the U.S. one week early (after completion of the Peru adoption processing).

**FOREIGN PROGRAM FEE:** The MAPS Peru foreign program fee is \$7,500 (payable prior to travel to Peru). For a second sibling adopted simultaneously the foreign program fee is \$3,500.

**Other expenses to plan for:**

Immigration application (I800A)	\$750
USCIS fingerprints (per adult)	\$80
Translation fee (dossier, post-placement reports etc)	\$1,000
Travel expenses	\$4,000-\$6,000
Child's physical	\$100
Child's Visa	\$400
Psychological report	\$100-600
Authentication of post-placement reports	\$50 per report

**Miscellaneous expenses that vary case by case:**

Passports  
Notarization/state certification  
Physical exams/tests for parents & children  
Child's travel-depends on age of child  
Consulate authentication

**PROGRAM CONTACT:** For more information on the Peru program, please call Betsy Bewsey at 207-775-4101 or email: [betsyb@mapsadopt.org](mailto:betsyb@mapsadopt.org) at MAPS International, 277 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101.

**[www.mapsadopt.org](http://www.mapsadopt.org)**

# Russia

In March of 1991, MAPS became the first American agency to work directly in cooperation with the Russian government. Our first children arrived home in October of that year and since then, we have placed over 1,000 children in loving families.

**CHILDREN:** Infants, toddlers, and school age children, including sibling groups, are available. Most are healthy but some have minor health problems. Children are tested for Hep B, HIV, and syphilis. Childless families may request boys but not girls, unless requesting a child over age 5 and/or with special needs. Families with a boy may request a girl 0-4 years if willing to wait at least 12 months for child referral.

**FAMILY REQUIREMENTS:** Couples and singles are accepted. There cannot be more than 45 years between the youngest parent (preferably mother) and the child.

From the time a family is registered in Russia, an invitation to travel (to meet an offered child) takes approximately 2–8 months for boys under 2 and at least 12 months for girls under 5. Special needs children, school age children, and older sibling groups may be available with minimal wait.

**TIME FRAME:** The 1<sup>st</sup> trip typically is made 2-4 weeks after the travel invitation is received; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> trip is about 3-9 months after dossier is sent to Russia.

**TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS:** Two trips are required for both parents. The 1<sup>st</sup> trip is about 1 week and the 2<sup>nd</sup> trip will be about 3 ½ weeks, unless the 10-day waiting period is waived, in which case it will be about 2 weeks in length. MAPS will arrange your travel and accommodations within Russia. In rare circumstances a third trip may be necessary. Our bilingual coordinator will greet and assist you during your stay.

**FOREIGN PROGRAM FEE:** The MAPS Russia foreign program fee is \$14,750 (payable upon acceptance of child assignment). Typically 90% of this fee covers in-country adoption program expenses/services, 10% may be used for humanitarian aid in-country. For a sibling adopted simultaneously, the foreign program fee is \$8,000 (\$2,500 for stateside adoption program expenses/services and \$5,500 for in-country adoption processes). For additional siblings adopted simultaneously the foreign program fee is \$1,500 per child. There is also a refundable post-placement deposit (payable before first trip) of \$1,000.\*

**Other expenses to plan for:**

Immigration application (I600A)	\$670
USCIS fingerprints (per adult in home)	\$80
Passports/visas fees	Approximately \$200-\$1000 per person
Lodging, food, necessities for parents & child(ren)	\$150-\$500 per day, depending on accommodation
Travel for child/children	Approximately \$500-\$2,000 per child
Fee for translator, if needed	Approximately \$100-\$2,000
Fee for car and driver, if needed	Approximately \$500-\$2,500
International Flights	\$500-\$2,000 per person per round trip
Domestic (within Russia) flights	\$200-\$600 per person per round trip
Translation fee	\$1,500 (due at program acceptance for documents translation)
Child's physical	\$150 per child
Child's U.S. Visa	\$400 per child
Photographs	Approximately \$25 per child
Embassy Registration Fee	\$70

**Miscellaneous expenses that vary case by case:**

Home study and post-placement fees	Approximately \$2,000-\$6,000
MMPI or MMPI-2 assessment if required	Approximately \$300-\$700 per parent
Physical exams for parents for dossier	Approximately \$200-\$1,200 per parent
Notarization & authentication of dossier	Approximately \$1,000-\$2,000
Medical exams/lab expenses for child as requested by adoptive parents	Approximately \$500
Child's travel – depends on age of child	
Gifts for orphanage, director, various officials if desired	Approximately \$0-\$500
Miscellaneous personal expenses	

\*Monies will be held in a non-interest bearing account and refunded within 14 business days of receipt of final post-placement report.

**PROGRAM CONTACTS:** For more information call Stacey Dudley at 207-775-4101,  
or email: [staceyd@mapsadopt.org](mailto:staceyd@mapsadopt.org) MAPS, 277 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101.

[www.mapsadopt.org](http://www.mapsadopt.org)

# Financing Options

## **Federal Adoption Tax Credit**

Adoptive parents may be eligible for a federal income tax credit of up to \$10,960 (on 2006 Returns) for qualified adoption expenses if your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) is less than \$164,410. If your AGI is between \$164,410 and \$204,410, your available tax credit will be reduced. For an AGI of \$204,410 and greater, the tax credit is not available. IRS Publication 17, Chapter 37, explains more about the tax credit for adoption and how it applies to you - access this publication at <http://www.irs.gov/publications/p17/ch37.html#d0e78233>.

## **State Adoption Subsidies**

The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) offers state-by-state information on adoption subsidy. Visit: [www.nacac.org](http://www.nacac.org) and go to "Adoption Subsidy"

## **Employer Assistance Programs**

Find out if your employer has adoption benefits by calling your Human Resources department or visit the Adoption in the Workplace website: [www.adoptionfriendlyworkplace.com](http://www.adoptionfriendlyworkplace.com)

## **Military Subsidies**

The military will reimburse active-duty, full-time personnel for most one-time adoption costs; up to \$2,000 per child.

**The National Adoption Foundation** offers unsecured and home equity loans, credit lines, and grants to adoptive parents. They can be reached by visiting: [www.nafadopt.org](http://www.nafadopt.org)

**A Child Waits Foundation** is a financial resource for families seeking low interest loans for international adoption. Contact them by calling 866-999-CHILD or [www.achildwaits.org](http://www.achildwaits.org)

**MBNA** offers lines of credit loans, home equity, and other secured loans. For these options, call 800-626-2760 or [www.mbna.com](http://www.mbna.com)

Check with your **local bank or credit union**. Many are now offering adoption loans.

**The National Endowment for Financial Education** offers a comprehensive booklet, "How to Make an Adoption Affordable Option." Visit the website at: [www.nefe.org/adoption](http://www.nefe.org/adoption)

## MAPS OFFICES

### FINANCIAL OFFICE

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### MAIN OFFICE

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[info@mapsadopt.org](mailto:info@mapsadopt.org)

### REGIONAL HOME STUDY OFFICES

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