



ADOPTIONS FROM BULGARIA

WACAP understands adoption is a big decision, and we'll be here for you at each step. In 2011, WACAP established its Bulgaria program, teaming up with a private nonprofit Bulgarian agency who is accredited to assist with international adoptions. Since then we've worked with adoption authorities to help find families for Bulgarian children waiting to be adopted.

Who are the children?

Bulgarian children of all ages need loving families. You can adopt a son or daughter 12 months to 15 years old. If you're seeking to adopt an infant, you must be open to a child up to 36 months old; in considering a younger child, your family should prepare for a boy or girl with individual needs such as a heart condition, history of seizure(s), or moderate delayed development coupled with a health issue. Preschool and school-age children and siblings are also waiting for families. If your family is hoping to adopt a child considered by Bulgarian adoption authorities as healthy, your family needs to be open to a child 8 years of age and older.

The ethnic background of the children is primarily Romani and occasionally Turkish. On rare occasions, children of European ethnicity who have moderate to severe individual needs are also in need of adoption.

If you hope to adopt a child who is already waiting for a family, you may be eligible for a Promise Child grant and/or fee reductions of \$3,600–5,400. Grants have been assigned to specific waiting children based on their age, sibling status or medical needs. For more information, visit www.wacap.org or contact us.

Adoption Process from Bulgaria

Once you've submitted your application and joined our Bulgaria program, you'll complete your homestudy. If you live in Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Wisconsin, Connecticut, New Jersey or New York, WACAP can do your homestudy for you. If you live outside our service area, we can recommend a homestudy agency in your state. Next, we'll help you gain clearance from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and complete your dossier. We'll send these documents to our companion agency in Bulgaria to be translated. If you have not already been matched with a waiting child, officials will review your documents and add you to the list of families waiting to be matched. You'll receive information about the child referred for your consideration before you travel, and you'll be invited on your first trip to meet him or her. When you've accepted the match, documents will be submitted to the Bulgarian government, which begins the legal adoption process. After the court process has been completed, you'll be invited to Bulgaria for your second trip and to bring your child home.

Wait Time

The wait time to bring a child home from Bulgaria varies. Depending on the children you'll consider, their needs, and ages, your wait time to be matched could be 6 months to 4 years or longer. Wait times for girls are generally longer. To be matched with a child age 8 years or older who is considered healthy by Bulgaria standards, your family will wait approximately 2–3 years.

Within 1–6 weeks after you're matched, you'll be invited to travel to Bulgaria for your first trip; your second trip will occur 3–6 months later. Please note these wait times are just estimates and can change.

Travel

- First trip is one week and second trip is 10 days (approx.)
- Only one parent needs to travel on either trip (Bulgaria prefers the mother to travel)

Getting Started on your Adoption: Adopting a child from Bulgaria starts with you application to WACAP. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at 206.575.4550 or wacap@wacap.org.

WHO CAN ADOPT FROM BULGARIA*

- Married couples
- Single men and women
(single men will only be approved to adopt a boy age 8+ who has moderate to significant needs)
- Applicants age 25–55 and older
 - Where the youngest parent is no more than 48 years older than the child
 - Exceptions may be made for those seeking waiting children and children 48 months or older

**Currently the Bulgarian government only accepts applications from heterosexual applicants.*