

Web address: [www.immigration.govt.nz/moscow](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/moscow)

INZ **reception** is open to the public **9.30 am – 11.30 am** Monday to Friday (except public holidays). INZ can be contacted for phone **inquires** between **9.30 am – 11.00 am**, and **4 pm to 5 pm**, Monday to Friday (except public holidays). Telephone: **(+7 495) 956 2642** or Fax: **(+7 495) 232 0180**

## ENQUIRIES FOR VISAS FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN

This leaflet provides advice on contact details and the services offered by the various New Zealand agencies for New Zealanders wishing to adopt children.

It is important that Immigration New Zealand is confident of the validity of the adoption (and the child's subsequent New Zealand citizenship). The issue of a New Zealand passport by the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs is therefore an important step that must take place before the child can enter New Zealand.

The complexity of adoptions arises from countries' differing adoption legislation. Many countries, like New Zealand have joined the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption ("the Hague Convention") which establishes a range of common processes for inter-country adoptions to protect those involved.

In some cases where the countries have not joined the Hague Convention, New Zealand has agreements in place for Hague-type processes where children are adopted from these countries.

### **If you are planning to adopt or have recently adopted a child:**

The following New Zealand agencies will be able to assist you with the adoption process.

**(a) Adoption Information and Services Unit (AISU) of the New Zealand Child Youth and Family Service (CYF)** provides services on adoption both within New Zealand and from other countries including preparing those wanting to become adoptive parents. They will be able to provide you with options and procedures involved in adoptions. AISU also provides some services after the adoption is complete (post-placement support if parents consent). Note that the AISU does not charge for any services it provides.

Until such time as a New Zealand accredited adoption agency is also accredited in the country the child is being adopted, all adoptions undertaken by New Zealanders in CIS countries are regarded as independent adoptions.

[www.cyf.govt.nz](http://www.cyf.govt.nz)

PH: 0064 4 917 1155  
FAX: 0064 4 918 0029

**(b) The New Zealand Citizenship Office of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA)** will be able to provide advice on the correct procedures on how to make an application for New Zealand citizenship for the adopted child.

[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

PH: 0064 4 382 3815

FAX: 0064 4 382 3561

**(c ) The New Zealand Embassy in Moscow.**

If you are in Russia making an application for the adopted child's New Zealand citizenship the New Zealand Embassy are able to provide a service to:

- check the adoption documents to ensure they are correct and legitimate;
- confirm that you have all the documents that are required to meet the legal requirements when applying for New Zealand citizenship for the adopted child;
- issue a letter for a fee advising that they have verified the documents and stating that on being granted New Zealand citizenship the child would then be permitted to enter New Zealand. This letter can be used to support a visa application to another country e.g. Australia if you choose not to wait in Russia for a decision by DIA on the citizenship application

It should be noted that decisions about citizenship are made only by the DIA. This means that you should not assume that if MFAT issues this letter, a grant of citizenship will automatically follow.

The First Secretary Consul will be happy to assist you PH: 956 3579