

Latvia, Ukraine, Bulgaria

Glossary of Adoption Terms:

Application Service Center (ASC)

USCIS fingerprint location.

Apostille

A state-level legalization process, for documents to be used in countries that are part of the Hague Convention of 1961.

Article 5

This is a letter issued by the U.S. Consulate in the child's country notifying the Central Authority that adoptive parents are eligible to adopt their child and that the child can enter and permanently reside in the U.S.A.

Article 16 Report

This is a letter and packet of documents that is submitted to USCIS with the I-800 application, which verifies both the eligibility of the child to be adopted and the pre-placement preparation and training of the adoptive parents.

Central Authority

The governing body of a country, responsible for overseeing adoptions in that country.

Certificate of Citizenship (COC)

A permanent document used to prove citizenship has been issued in the United States. This document is issued automatically for all final Hague adoptions and most non-Hague adoptions. In the case of a child age 14 or older, he/she must first take an oath before receiving the certificate.

Declaration (Bulgaria)

A document completed by the adoptive parents, informing the Ministry of Justice in Bulgaria of their intent to move forward with the adoption of a "waiting child." Once the Declaration is approved, adoptive parents have 6 months to complete and submit their dossier.

DS260

The visa application for your child(ren) to enter the U.S.A.

Dossier

A collection of documents, including your home study, that represents you as an adoptive family to the country's Central authority.

Hague Convention

Formally known as The Hague Adoption Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption, this is a set of internationally agreed-upon standards of practice to safeguard inter-country adoptions. All Latvia and Bulgaria adoptions are considered "Convention adoptions" and are subject to Hague regulations, including, for example, a required 10 hours of parent training. Although Ukraine is not a party to the Hague Convention, since the implementation of the Universal Accreditation Act, or UAA, many of the Hague practices are now implemented in non-Hague adoptions.

(Please note: There are MANY different Hague Conventions and this Convention is different than the Hague Convention of 1961, which expresses how documents can be sealed for various countries. See the definition for "apostille" for more information.)

Home Study

Part of your adoption dossier, this is a document composed by your social worker reporting on various aspects of your family's life.

I-600A & I-600

Not to be confused with one another, these are two separate sets of immigration documents for non-Hague Adoptions (Ukraine). The I-600A is submitted to US Immigration during your dossier compilation in order to obtain US Immigration approval for your family to adopt a foreign-born child. The I-600 is child-specific and is submitted AFTER your dossier has been accepted, formal referral given, and the adoption is finalized in Ukraine. The I-600A and the I-600 cannot be used for a Hague adoption.

I-800A & I-800

Not to be confused with one another, these are two separate sets of immigration documents for Hague Adoptions (Latvia and Bulgaria). The I-800A is submitted to US Immigration during your dossier compilation in order to obtain US Immigration approval for your family to adopt a foreign-born child. The I-800 is child-specific and is submitted AFTER your dossier has been accepted, formal referral given, and you have traveled on your first trip. The I-800A and the I-800 cannot be used for a Non-Hague adoption.

Letter of Intent (Latvia)

This is a short letter sent to the Ministry of Welfare of Latvia, informing them that you have started the adoption process with CCAI, and that you would like to adopt the child(ren) you hosted. The LOI is sent only for host families.

Log-In Date (LID)

The date your dossier is submitted to the Central Authority of the country from which you are adopting.

Notarize

To have a document legalized by a valid Notary. (The first of two basic sealing steps most often used during the dossier process.)

Sealing

The process of notarizing, certifying at a county level (if required for your state), and apostilling a document (most often used during the dossier process).

USCIS

United States Citizenship & Immigration Services, responsible for approving families to adopt children internationally.