

4. Adoption Procedure Amended

Due to the introduction of martial law in Ukraine there were introduced some important amendments were introduced to the adoption procedure.

Under the martial law, foreigners and the Ukrainians now residing or staying abroad cannot use the right of adoption except while the adoptive parent candidates are relatives of a child or they want to adopt siblings of the child they earlier adopted.

Under the martial law in the territory of Ukraine, the orphans and children deprived of parental care while staying outside Ukraine can be transferred under care or custody of the Ukrainians registered as adoptive parent candidate and reside on the territory of Ukraine except the territories of combat operations or temporary occupied by russia and where the state bodies are functioning.

Meeting of adoptive parents candidates with a child is to be conducted at the child's place of staying outside Ukraine and to be attended by the head of the institution or a representative authorized by the head and, also, by a Ukrainian diplomatic official.

The referral to meet a child is to be issued by a Regional Children's Welfare Office.

If such a referral was issued to the Ukrainians now temporary or permanently staying abroad or to the foreigners before the introduction of martial law in Ukraine then adoptive parents candidates can complete the adoption of a child in compliance to applicable legislation of Ukraine. The fact of transferring a child to the family is to be certified by the Act of Transferring the Child signed by the head of the institution or a representative authorized by the head, a diplomatic official and by adoptive parents.

After taking a decision on transferring a child into a family, the child can be returned to Ukraine accompanied by a representative of either an institution, or a care and custody agency or an authorized representative.

Following mentioned above and keeping in mind the best interests of the child and the current situation in Ukraine due to russia's invasion in Ukraine, we would like to ask you to inform the competent authorities of your country about the possibility for the Ukrainian children to be adopted or to be taken under care or custody of the Ukrainian citizens during martial law.

We would also like to ask your competent authorities to comprehensively promote contacts of the Ukrainian adoptive parent candidates with a child/children as soon as possible because the children deserve it as soon as possible.