

ADOPTION FROM LITHUANIA

Lithuania is in Northern Europe, on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea. Latvia is to the north, Belarus to the southeast, Poland to the south and the Kaliningrad Region of the Russian Federation to the southwest. Together, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia make up the Baltic States. Lithuania is the largest and most populous of the three. It is slightly larger than the province of Nova Scotia.

Lithuania is a member of the European Community. Population – 3.6 million people with major ethnic groups: Lithuanian, Russian, Polish and Belarusian.

Republic of Lithuania ratified the Hague Convention on Child Protection and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption. The Civil Code and the Code for Civil procedure of Republic of Lithuania govern the adoption process.

The Government authority responsible for international and domestic adoptions is the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. The Adoption Services office of this Ministry holds the registry of all children available for adoption with relevant medical and social information and the registry of all adoptive applicants.

Adults under fifty years of age who are properly prepared to be adoptive parents. Priority is given to married couples. Adoptive applicants of Lithuanian connection or descent have priority. The prospective adoptive parent(s) must be legally capable and do not have parental rights removed at any time.

The Lithuanian program gives excellent opportunities to adopt a Caucasian child of either gender with detailed medical and social histories from one to four years of age. The children available for adoption are residing in state orphanages.

After adoptive applicants have received the approval by the Provincial Central Adoption Authority in Canada, the adoption dossier is sent to our representative in Lithuania for translation, and then submitted to the Lithuanian Central Adoption Authority for review and registration.

Average expected waiting period for a child proposal is currently 1.5 years. This period becomes longer for younger child.

To complete the adoption process two trips are recommended. If the adoptive applicants prefer to have one trip only, they have to be prepared to stay in Lithuania for at least 49 days. The adoptive applicants are required to be present during the Court hearing.

The post adoption reports are required at 6, 12, 24 and 36 months. Our agency will forward these reports to the corresponding central authorities in Canada and Lithuania. These reports provide information regarding the well-being, integration and general physical, psychological and emotional growth of the adopted child. After three years such reports will be provided upon request of the Lithuanian Adoption.

Your adopted child will have a Landed Immigrant status in Canada until you apply for and obtain his/her Canadian citizenship.

Please note, that the above schedule is based on prior adoptions. Each adoption is unique and could lead to some variations that are beyond the control of our agency's employees. Since the adoption process in Lithuania is entirely determined by decisions of the local adoption authorities,

neither we, nor the Foreign Adoption Coordinator/Lawyer have any jurisdiction over the outcome or the length of the process.

For more details on adoption from Lithuania, please contact the agency at:

Tel. (416) 223-4997

Fax. (416) 250-8977

Email: info@lovingheartadoptions.com