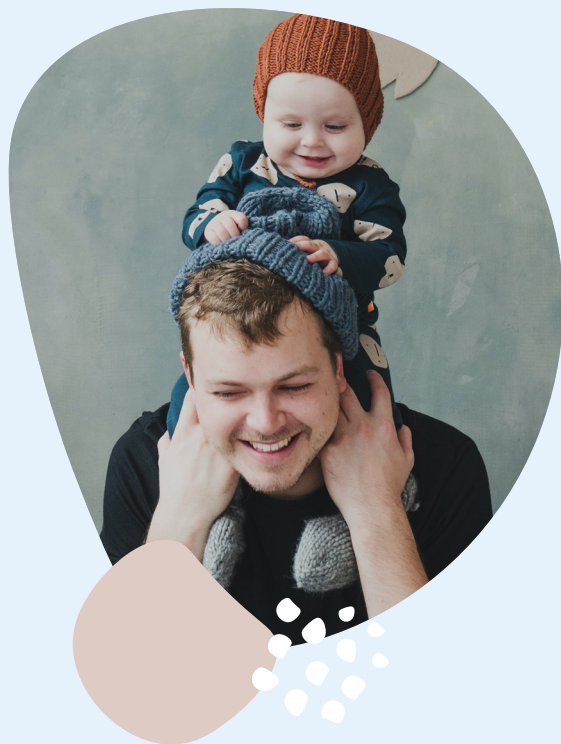


# ADOPTING CHILDREN FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC



**WWW.ADOPCE.COM**

The project is realized in partnership between  
the Tereza Maxová Foundation  
and the Center for Substitute Family Care

## I AM NOT CZECH BUT LIVE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC. CAN I ADOPT A CHILD HERE?

Yes, if you have lived in the Czech Republic for more than 365 days, you can apply for adoption. You will have to prove your residence in the Czech Republic. Employment contract, a flat lease, health insurance, proof of temporary (permanent) residence can be all used to prove your residence.

Same conditions for adoption will apply to you as to the citizens of the Czech Republic.

The official communication language is Czech or Slovak. You don't have to have an official interpreter, but we recommend finding someone to help you communicate with the authorities.

The process of mediation and preparation for the adoption is free of charge.

## HOW TO PROCEED?

According to your residence in the Czech Republic, visit the local OSPOD office (authority for the social and legal protection of children) of the relevant municipal authority of the municipality with extended competence. You will fill the form for the register of adoption applicants and eventually submit other documents: your ID, proof of income, medical report, marriage certificate. Some documents require official translation.

The social worker will obtain a copy of your criminal record for the period of your stay in the Czech Republic. You must provide a similar document from all countries where you have lived for at least 3 months from the age of 15. Subsequently, the social worker will visit your home for a so-called social survey. You will agree on the date and time of the visit. We recommend that someone who can help you with communication also attended the survey.

## I AM SINGLE, CAN I ADOPT A CHILD?

Yes, you can adopt a child; you will be considered a so-called single applicant.

## I HAVE A PARTNER, BUT WE DO NOT WANT TO GET MARRIED. CAN WE ADOPT A CHILD TOGETHER?

Only spouses can adopt a child together. In your case, you must decide who will apply and adopt the child as a so-called single applicant. After the adoption, the applicant will be listed in the child's new birth certificate. The other partner will have no legal rights or obligations to the child. Nevertheless, if you live in the same household, your partner will be included in the preparation process and the survey, because we expect that he/she will be involved in the child's upbringing. If you get married, your partner can subsequently adopt your child, too.

## WE ARE A HOMOSEXUAL COUPLE, CAN WE ADOPT A CHILD?

The above principles apply to both heterosexual and homosexual couples. Homosexual couples cannot marry under current legislation. Therefore, they cannot adopt a child together. However, one of you can apply and adopt a child as the so-called single applicant.

## CAN I CHOOSE THE CHILD I WANT?

You can provide specifics about the child you offer help to, what child you can give home. It is possible to specify age, sex, health or ethnicity of the child. You will be asked about your preferences. In every case, the authority selects the best-suited family for the child. You will not be choosing a particular child.

## WE HAVE APPLIED FOR ADOPTION, COMPLETED THE SOCIAL SURVEY. WHAT WILL BE THE NEXT STEP, WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE APPLICATION?

The social worker will forward the file with all documents to the relevant regional authority. They will then invite you for a psychological examination and also for preparation procedures.

## WHAT ARE THE PREPARATIONS?

In other words, it is an applicant training. As part of the preparations, you will learn about the specifics of adoption and the needs of children who come to foster or adoptive families. You must complete at least 48 hours of training in preparation for adoption. Some counties require more hours of training. Some preparation sessions have a form of a lecture; others are more experiential. Usually, it's a combination of both. In Prague, NATAMA is currently preparing English-speaking applicants for adoption.

## OUR APPLICATION FOR ADOPTION REGISTER WAS DENIED. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

If you were not included in the register, the decision statement will explain the reason. You can proceed as in another legal process and appeal the decision.

## HOW LONG IS THE ENTIRE PROCESS FROM SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION TO LISTING IN THE ADOPTION APPLICANTS REGISTER?

Depending on the availability of the psychologist and the preparation courses, the length of the process may vary per region. On average, it takes about 1 year.

## WE ARE NOW LISTED IN THE REGISTER OF APPLICANTS, WHEN WILL WE SEE A CHILD?

Congratulations! Now you will „just” have to wait until you would be selected as the best parents for a particular child. The waiting time varies by region and depends very much on your requirements about the child as you stated them in the application.

## THE REGIONAL OFFICE NOTIFIED US THAT THEY HAVE FOUND A CHILD FOR US; WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

You will see the regional social worker, and she will read to you all the important information from the child's file. You can ask questions about anything that interests you or is unclear to you. If you wish, she will also show you the child's photo. Then you will decide if you want to meet the child. If so, you will organize your first visit with the child's social worker according to the child's situation (with the temporary foster carers or with the institution where the child is residing). You have 30 days to think about whether you will adopt the child. From the child's perspective, this is a very long time, if you know that you cannot or do not want to adopt this child, report this fact as soon as possible. Establishing a relationship with a child and transferring his/her connection from the temporary foster mother to you can take some time, and it very much depends on the age of the child.

## I AM CZECH, BUT I LIVE ABROAD. I WANT TO ADOPT A CHILD FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC. WHAT SHOULD I DO? / I AM NOT CZECH, I LIVE ABROAD, BUT I WANT TO ADOPT A CHILD FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

In both cases, it will be an intercountry adoption. What matters is the applicant's current residence, not his citizenship. Allowing the adoption of a child from the Czech Republic abroad is possible thanks to the Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and

Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (the Convention), on which the process of international adoption is based. The UMPOD (Office for the International Protection of Children) functions as the mediator in the intercountry adoption and cooperates only with countries that have signed the Convention.

### CONTACT UMPOD:

Šilingrovo náměstí 3, 602 00 Brno

Tel.: +420 542 215 522, <https://www.umpod.cz/osvojeni/>

Contact the equivalent of OSPD (authority for social and legal protection of children) in the country where you currently live, as you must follow their rules.

## ADOPTION

<https://www.adopce.com/>

Infoline: +420 725 756 505

The **Adopce.com** project is realized in partnership between the Tereza Maxová Foundation and the Center for Substitute Family Care. It helps not only those interested in adoption or foster care but also surrogate parents who have already adopted a child into their family. The main goal of the project is to inform interested parties about all forms of alternative family care.

### CONTACT FOR THE PROFESSIONAL GUARANTEE OF THE PROJECT:

Center for Substitute Family Care,

Jelení 91/7, 118 00 Prague 1

Infoline: +420 725 756 505

Email: [info@nahradnirodina.cz](mailto:info@nahradnirodina.cz)

Web: [www.nahradnirodina.cz](http://www.nahradnirodina.cz)



Nadace Terezy Maxové dětem



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