



1272 Gaylord St  
Denver, CO 80206  
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## **BULGARIA PROGRAM INFORMATION**

*“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1:5*

Bulgaria borders three seas and boasts one of the most picturesque landscapes of middle Europe. The country holds a variety of ancient historical and cultural treasures; but of all its blessings, the greatest are its children. Most children eligible for adoption live in foster care or small group care settings. Mi Yungs Prayer (MYP) is pleased to continue to advocate for and serve the estimated 10,000 orphaned children of Bulgaria.

### **PROCESS & TIME FRAMES**

The approximate time frame from dossier completion through finalization of an adoption is 1 to 3+ years. The approximate time frame for a waiting child is 1 to 2 years.

#### **HOME STUDY AND DOSSIER PROCESS: 5-9 MONTHS**

Once contracted with MYP, your next steps are to begin your home study and dossier. MYP staff will assist your family in this paperwork process.

#### **TRANSLATION AND AUTHENTICATION: 6 WEEKS**

After completion of your dossier, it is sent to Bulgaria for translation and authentication. Once translated, your dossier is submitted and registered into the Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Bulgaria Central Authority.

#### **ADOPTION PROCESS: 1-3+ YEARS**

After your dossier is registered, the MOJ forwards their opinion to the Adoption Council, which matches an eligible child with your family within 1-3+ years, depending on referral parameters. More boys than girls are historically available, however this can change at any time. Families who are open to waiting children will have significantly shorter wait times. A referral of a waiting child(ren) can occur before the dossier is completed, if approved by a social worker. MYP will forward the child’s information to families for review. The referral information will include complete social and medical history and a picture of the child. MYP requires all families to have medical and background information reviewed by an international adoption pediatrician. Families will have 2 weeks to make an informed decision. At the time of official referral acceptance, families may send pictures of their family to the child and begin the immigration paperwork for travel. The timeframe from acceptance of referral to travel is typically 1-2 months.

#### **FIRST TRIP TRAVEL PROCESS: 1 WEEK**

After reviewing the referral information, both parents will travel to Bulgaria for 1 week to visit and bond with the child. At the end of the week, you will formally accept the referral of the child.

#### **COURT PROCESS: 3-5 MONTHS**

The MOJ will review all referral documentation and forward their final opinion to the Bulgarian courts. It is during this court hearing that the adoption is finalized, and travel arrangements are made for your second trip.

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### **SECOND TRIP TRAVEL PROCESS: 10 DAYS**

Once all travel documentation is complete, an immigrant visa appointment is scheduled at the U.S. Embassy. Both parents travel to Bulgaria to pick up your child and bring them home.

### **POST-ADOPTION PROCESS: 2 YEARS**

MYP and Bulgaria require post-adoption visits and reports at 3, 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 months. Once the adoption is finalized and your child is home, adoptive parents may be required to complete their state's re-adoption process. Your child becomes a U.S. citizen upon entrance to the U.S. and you will receive a certificate of citizenship within 90 days.

*\*ALL TIME FRAMES ARE ESTIMATES AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

### **ELIGIBLE CHILDREN**

Children with specialized needs and sibling groups of all ages are in need of adoption from Bulgaria.

### **PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY**

#### **PARENTS' AGES**

Couples between the ages of 23 and 50 years old may adopt a child older than 12 months. Single women who are 25-55 years old are also eligible. Parents over the age of 55 are assessed on a case-by-case basis. The younger parent cannot be more than 50 years older than the child.

#### **MARRIAGE STATUS**

Couples married at least one year are welcome to adopt.

#### **DIVORCE**

If there is a history of divorce, the current marriage must be at least 2 years. Each spouse may have up to two divorces.

#### **CHILDREN IN FAMILY**

Couples with five or fewer minor children and single women with two or fewer minor children are welcome to adopt from Bulgaria.

#### **INCOME**

Families must have an income of at least \$15,000 per family member, including the adopted child.

#### **CRIMINAL HISTORY**

Applicants cannot have a history of violent crimes or crimes against children. Applicants with a criminal history will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

#### **MEDICAL HISTORY**

Applicants cannot have a past or current diagnosis of a communicable and/or life-threatening disease or other condition that impairs their ability to parent and/or the quality of life of a child. All other medical conditions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

*In addition, please refer to MYP's general requirements.*

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**IN BULGARIA**, we want adoptive parents to understand the specialized needs with an asterisk are prevalent and present in many children's backgrounds and therefore ask that you be open to and prepared for these conditions. You will have the opportunity to complete a medical condition checklist to indicate what else you are open to. If you would like to be considered for this program, we want you to be aware of the most prevalent needs.

**Families should be prepared that children will likely exhibit or may have experienced the following:**

- History of abuse (physical, emotional)
- History of neglect
- History of trauma, grief, loss
- Global developmental delay

**Other common specialized needs:**

- |   |                        |                                     |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Heart conditions (ASD, VSD)             | • Limb deformity       | • Epilepsy                          |
| • Older child (7+)                        | • Hearing impairment   | • Hypospadias                       |
| • Cognitive delay/intellectual disability | • Prematurity          | • Risk of prenatal alcohol exposure |
| • Cerebral palsy                          | • Respiratory distress | • Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders  |
| • Down syndrome                           | • Blood disorder       |                                     |
| • Missing limbs                           | • Hydrocephaly         |                                     |
|   | • Kidney disease       |                                     |

**Please note that these are just some of the more common conditions for children recently placed through MYP's Bulgaria adoption program.** We are here for you and your family and available to talk through the spectrum of these conditions and what adopting a child with a difficult family history or medical conditions can look like. During your adoption process, you will take pre-adoptive training. MYP also recommends you talk with a physician regarding special needs to get more in-depth information needed to make decisions.

# Bulgaria Adoption Process

