



May 3, 2006

Minister Andrei Fursenko  
Ministry of Education and Science  
#11 Tverskaya Street  
Moscow, Russia 125993 GSP 3

Dear Minister Fursenko:

On behalf of Joint Council on International Children's Services (JCICS) I am writing you today requesting that the re-accreditation of the United States adoption agencies up for review on May 17, 2006 will occur without delay. I recognize and understand the review and approval process that your Ministry must conduct for each agency, but would greatly appreciate the timeliness of such processes.

Our foremost concern is for the children waiting for permanent families and that a delay in re-accreditation could lengthen the time they wait in institutional care, thus increasing their chances of developing life long developmental, emotional and behavioral problems.

I would like to emphasize that JCICS supports the promotion of national adoptions. We feel that there is a great need for children to find permanent, loving and safe families and that both domestic and international adoption should be kept open as an option for children in need.

Joint Council on International Children's Services (JCICS) is the oldest and largest affiliation of licensed, non-profit international adoption agencies, parent support groups, medical clinics and advocacy groups in the world. All of our agency members are non-profit, licensed adoption agencies. JCICS has a Standards of Practice which all of our member agencies are required to sign and abide by committing to ethical practices in intercountry adoption.

We currently represent 32 of the U.S. accredited agencies working in Russia. We also support the accreditation of additional agencies and request that the applications from other U.S. non-profit agencies be reviewed as well.

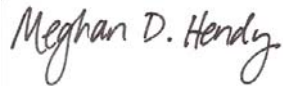
JCICS believes that all children – regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, medical limitations or other conditions – deserve permanent, loving homes. When children cannot be cared for in their birth families, or in permanent adoptive homes within their country of birth, we believe that intercountry adoption provides the most positive option for children.

Over the past several months Russia's adoption procedures have been strengthened and organized under your leadership. JCICS extends our compliments to you as you have made the needs of children a priority under your administration. It is our hope that international adoption will continue to be a positive option for children in need of permanent families.

If there is anything we can do to help facilitate the re-accreditation process or any information we can disseminate to our member agencies please let us know.

Thank you for your time and kind consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



Meghan Hendy  
Executive Director

CC:

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