



Latvia Adoption Program Overview

All Blessings International is now working with the country of Latvia to process adoptions. Latvia, which borders Russia and the Baltic Sea, is a beautiful country, rich with history and traditions. This is a pilot program for ABI and those families looking to adopt from Latvia must be flexible and have a positive attitude when unexpected changes and difficulties occur, as this is a new endeavor and the ABI staff will be learning the timing and process.

Families interested in Latvia adoption might also be interested in hosting a Latvian child. ABI works with “A Hope and a Future.” “A Hope and a Future” is a hosting program that works to bring Latvian children to the US with the hope of introducing them to a family lifestyle. Please contact [Mark Gough](#) if you are interested in hosting a Latvian child.

General Adoptive Parent Requirements: Latvian law allows families meeting the following criteria to adopt:

- Married couples and single women are accepted
- Single women are accepted on a limited basis
- All prospective adoptive parents must be at least 18 year older than the child they are seeking to adopt

Children Available: Children in need of families are typically older children age 9 to 15 and children with special needs.

Adoption Process– The adoption process from Latvia can appear overwhelming initially. However, it is a step-by-step process and ABI will guide you. The first step in adopting from Latvia is to have a **Home study** conducted by an agency licensed in your state of residence. Latvia is a part of the Hague Convention; please contact ABI before choosing a home study agency. The second step, is to file your Immigration and Naturalization Paperwork: the **I-800A**.

Dossier. The next step is the Dossier. It is a compilation of documents that require various seals at different levels of government. ABI, Inc. will provide adopting families with exact directions about how to prepare their dossier and an up-to-date Dossier document list when they have decided on their specific country. Don't be overwhelmed - we'll help you with this and ABI Inc. will even manage dossier preparation and domestic and international mailing! Once your dossier is ready to submit, your documents will be reviewed and your dossier will be sent to Latvia.

Travel. Families will expect to travel three times, with both parents traveling the first time as well as the final time which will finalize the adoption only one parent is required to travel the second time.

Post-Adoption. Reports following a child's placement for adoption are required to be completed by a licensed adoption agency (typically the same one that conducted the homestudy) at 1, 6, 12, and 24 months following placement. These are sent by ABI to Latvia.

If you are interested in more information please [contact Kim](#) at our MO office