



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

MINISTRSTVO ZA DELO, DRUŽINO IN SOCIALNE ZADEVE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR, FAMILY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

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HCCH, Permanent Bureau
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Subject: Questionnaire on accreditation of adoption bodies

Dear Sir/Madam,

we reply to your letter addressed to the Ministry for Labour, Family and Social Affairs in Republic of Slovenia as the Central Authority designated under Article 6 of the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption.

Unfortunately we couldn't response on your questionnaire because in Republic of Slovenia we don't use accredited bodies. Therefore we would like to briefly present how adoptions are regulated in the Republic of Slovenia.

The main legal source governing adoption in the Republic of Slovenia is the Marriage and Family Relations Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, 69/2004 – abridged text) in which only one type of adoption is foreseen, i.e. full adoption. Full adoption establishes a relationship between an adoptive parent and an adoptive child that is fully equal to that existing between birth parents and their children. Full adoption cannot be rescinded.

In Slovenia, centres for social work are authorised to perform work in the area of adoptions, i.e. they are Public Authorities and they implement certain tasks on behalf of the state. There are 62 of them at present. The professional tenets for work with prospective adoptive parents are relatively clear. Apart from reviewing their objective eligibility and suitability for adoption (health status, housing situation, material conditions, evidence of no previous convictions and that the prospective adoptive parents have not been deprived of parental rights), it is also very important to assess the expectations, motives for the adoption, and character that ensure that a certain married couple will be good parents to the adoptive child.

The Marriage and Family Relations Act stipulates that the adoptive parent may only exceptionally be a foreign citizen, i.e. only in those cases when the centre for social work could not find an adoptive parent for the adoptive child among the citizens of the Republic of Slovenia. The minister responsible for the family and the minister responsible for the interior must give consent to an adoption of a child by a foreign citizen. This consent is not necessary when the adoptive parent is the spouse of the child's parent.

The same Act poses no limitations on the adoption of children from other countries. There are no real differences in content between domestic and intercountry adoption. A couple or an individual applies at centre for social work for an adoption. The centre then assesses the possibility of and suitability for adoption. On the basis of its conclusions, the centre formulates its opinion about the prospective adoptive parent, which is of key significance during the adoption procedure, even when the child is from abroad. As long as the adoption of the child is legitimate in the country he or she comes from, no special problems or complications are expected in the Republic of Slovenia.

The fact is that we receive many more applications by eligible candidates for adoption than there are children waiting for adoption. The adoption of Slovene children by foreign citizens is therefore not possible at present.

Yours sincerely,

Prepared by Tanja Oberski

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