

Russian Duma Rules to Allow HIV Patients to Adopt Children in Their Care

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Roman Pimenov / TASS

Russians living with HIV will be able to legally adopt children living with them under new legislation passed on Tuesday.

Russia's Constitutional Court [ruled](#) last year that preventing HIV-positive families from adopting children who already live with them was unconstitutional. The changes were [anticipated](#) as part of Russia's broader state strategy to combat the [epidemic](#) that has led to the deaths of 318,000 Russians over the past 30 years and to reduce stigma.

Related article: [318K HIV-Positive Russians Have Died Since 1987 – Watchdog](#)

The bill, which aims to allow people living with HIV, hepatitis C, tuberculosis and other diseases to adopt children “in already established family relations,” [passed](#) its third and final reading in Russia's State Duma on Tuesday.

[It](#) is expected to be approved by Russia's upper house of parliament and be signed by President Vladimir Putin to become law.

Russia's 2016 [strategy](#) to combat the spread of HIV aims to work with at-risk groups, spread awareness and fight discrimination.

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