

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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