

Putin Signs Law Allowing HIV Patients to Adopt Children in Their Care

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Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a bill that allows Russians living with HIV and other diseases to legally adopt children in their care.

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 in three decades. Russia's 2016 [strategy](#) to fight the spread of HIV includes working with at-risk groups, spreading awareness and fighting discrimination.

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

The law, which aims to allow people living with HIV, hepatitis C, tuberculosis and other diseases to adopt children "in already established family relations," appeared on the government's legal portal dated Wednesday.

The legislation [passed](#) its third and final reading in Russia's State Duma on May 21 and the upper-house Federation Council May 22.

Russia's Constitutional Court [ruled](#) last year that preventing HIV-positive families from adopting children who already live with them was unconstitutional.

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