

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

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The bill, which aims to allow people living with HIV, hepatitis C, tuberculosis and other diseases to adopt children "in already established family relations," <u>passed</u> its third and final reading in Russia's State Duma on Tuesday.

<u>It</u> 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 <u>strategy</u> to combat the spread of HIV aims to work with at-risk groups, spread awareness and fight discrimination.

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