
Conditions and Procedure for Establishing a Family Orphanage in Uzbekistan

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Article information:

Manuscript received: 02 Jun 2025; **Accepted:** 03 Jul 2025; **Published:** 18 Aug 2025

Abstract: A family orphanage is a family institution with at least two caregivers, where children in need of protection are raised. These institutions serve the healthy development, socialization and upbringing of children based on family values. The establishment of a family orphanage in Uzbekistan is an important legal and social basis for providing love and family warmth to children, strengthening their social protection. Strict requirements are imposed on the organizers, they must be able to educate children. This system, unlike state institutions, creates great opportunities for creating family conditions for children.

Keys words: Family, family orphanage, educational environment, child placement procedure, legislation, socialization, love, children, parents, children's rights, children deprived of parental care.

Family orphanages are a convenient place for children deprived of parental care and preparing them for independent life. In order to introduce a completely new system of raising children deprived of parental care and orphans, to put family and other alternative forms of placement of children into practice, and to create favorable conditions for preparing them for independent life, from September 1, 2022: In Uzbekistan, establishing a family orphanage (oilaviy bolalar uyi) is a state-supported initiative aimed at providing a family-based environment for children deprived of parental care. This approach aligns with the country's deinstitutionalization policy, which emphasizes family-based care over large residential institutions. The National Guard and local child protection departments oversee and coordinate the activities of family orphanages, ensuring compliance with regulations and the well-being of the children.

Family orphanages are established by citizens wishing to raise orphans and children deprived of parental care without the status of a legal entity, based on the decision of the relevant city khokim, with a maximum of 3-5 children. At the same time, the total number of children or children of the citizens who have established a family orphanage should not exceed 8. Family orphanages are allowed to be established by citizens who have successfully completed the parent training courses, and the improvement and control of the activities of family orphanages is carried out by the National Guard and district khokims to protect children. Citizens who have applied for the establishment of a family orphanage are strictly prohibited from requesting information that can be obtained from some of the electronic documents of ministries and departments in the relevant places.

The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, together with the regional and Tashkent city khokimiyats, will take measures to reorganize and reorganize family orphanages, which are currently operating as educational institutions with the status of legal entities, without the status of legal entities within 1 month. According to this resolution, the restriction established in paragraph 1 on the maximum number of children in a family orphanage and the educational institution will remain in these

family orphanages until the children in these family orphanages reach the age of 18 or leave for other reasons. Measures will be taken to organize training courses for those wishing to organize family orphanages in the role of adopted parents and to involve knowledgeable and qualified, including foreign, specialists in this process.

The University of Public Safety is improving the activities of the training courses for foster parents. Persons wishing to establish family orphanages can study the training and improvement of foster parents organized by non-governmental educational organizations and receive the appropriate certificate. A monthly amount of funds is allocated for the care and treatment of each disabled child brought up in a family orphanage in the amount of 1 time per month. A family orphanage is established by the decision of the district khokim, and the relevant application of the couple wishing to establish a family orphanage, the conclusion of the guardianship and trusteeship body, the district and city interdepartmental commission on minors' affairs on the couple's ability to be foster parents and raise children can serve as the basis for the adoption of a decision by the district khokim. A couple wishing to establish a family orphanage must apply to the guardianship and trusteeship authorities at their place of residence. The application must indicate the surname, first name, patronymic of the prospective parents, place of residence, number and age of their own children or children adopted, if any.

The following must be attached to the application: Certified copies of documents on education, marriage certificate, a certificate from the place of work and study, a certificate from local labor authorities for those who are unemployed or recognized as unemployed in the prescribed manner and an extract from the work book (if there is work experience), a certificate from the place of residence indicating family members, information or a document confirming the existence of a place of residence for the parents in accordance with sanitary rules and regulations, information or a document confirming the existence of a place of residence on lease terms or on other legal grounds. In the absence of appropriate housing, the application shall indicate the need to provide a place of residence. Information on the health of the spouses, a conclusion of the medical commission on their illness or health, certificates from psychiatric and narcological institutions, and a dispensary for skin and venereal diseases are obtained. At the time of adoption, the foster parent must have a certificate or documents confirming the identity of the spouses. The status of the family orphanage, its organization, the procedure for accepting children, the rights of foster parents and children placed in such homes for upbringing. The main task of the family orphanage is to raise, educate, and create favorable conditions for the psychological and physical development of children left without parental care. Guardianship and guardianship authorities are provided with assistance in organizing the orphanage. The living expenses of foster children in the family orphanage are covered from the budget. The government decree established the procedure for adopting children into families. According to it, children from birth to 18 years of age can be given to family upbringing. Foster parents are allocated from the state budget from 1.5 million to 2.1 million soums per month for the living expenses of each child. The living expenses of children in family orphanages are covered from the budget. The Government Resolution of August 16 [No. 451] approved the Regulation "On Family Orphanages," the Ministry of Justice reported. According to the document, a family orphanage is established by a resolution of the district (city) khokim. Those wishing to adopt children for family upbringing submit an application to the khokim. This may include parents who are married and citizens aged 35 to 60. Also, children from birth to 18 years old are given for family upbringing. Children aged 10 and older can be given to a family orphanage only with their consent. At least 3 children aged 3 and up are given for upbringing in a family orphanage. Procedure for Establishing a Family Orphanage

The procedural steps are as follows:

1. Application Submission: Interested individuals submit their application to the local khokimiyat (district or city administration) at their place of residence.
2. Review and Approval: The khokim (governor) reviews the application. Upon meeting the eligibility criteria, the khokim grants approval for the establishment of the family orphanage.
3. Training Completion: Applicants must successfully complete the mandatory parenting training

courses organized by authorized state bodies or accredited organizations.

4. Ongoing Monitoring: The family orphanage's activities are subject to oversight by local child protection services and relevant authorities to ensure compliance with regulations and the well-being of the children.

The living expenses of children in family orphanages are covered from the State Budget. In accordance with the Regulation, foster parents are allocated 5 times the minimum wage (1.5 million soums) per month for the living expenses of each foster child for children under 7 years of age, and 7 times the minimum wage (2.1 million soums) for children aged 8–18. In addition, the Presidential Decree of August 5 [No. PQ-345] stipulated that citizens who establish family orphanages will be allocated funds from the State Budget. In addition, training courses for foster parents will be organized for citizens who wish to establish family orphanages in cooperation with the National Guard and the Ministry of Public Education.

In conclusion, it is worth saying that if we strengthen the cooperation of social institutions, families, schools, and neighborhoods in order for children in orphanages to adapt to society, and fully implement the decisions of the Cabinet of Ministers, and increase the legal, pedagogical, and psychological literacy of families taking care of children, establish friendly relations with adoptive parents, and treat children in accordance with their nature, teach them vocational skills, and provide social and material support to adoptive families, we would have achieved all the planned work.

The establishment of family orphanages in Uzbekistan offers a vital alternative to institutional care, promoting the healthy development and social integration of children without parental care. The government's clear regulations, training requirements, and financial support framework aim to ensure that family orphanages provide safe, supportive, and nurturing environments for foster children.

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