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K1 Visas in Russia

By Annas Agency®

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Background

After spending countless hours and large sums of money finding that special someone, you may think that the large part of your search is over - this is not so. It will now be your job to navigate the maze of regulations affecting US citizens looking to marry foreigners. Following the September 11 attacks, the USCIS (formerly INS) has imposed even more stringent regulations. It will now take many more months before your fiancé's background checks are completed. To expedite the process, it is advisable a qualified immigration specialist is contacted. If you live in another country you should also consider the speaking to a local specialist. In South Africa for example, it is possible economically obtain the services of a law firm which specializes in Russian/South African marriages

Recently a Russian woman living in the US was deported to Russia. She had been married for 3 years, had a steady job and also had a child with her new husband. The INS deported her because she had not stated her actual intention for entering the country. If you marry your girlfriend visiting you on one of those visas, her legal status in the USA will be questionable, and she may be refused permanent resident status on the basis of visa fraud if the USCIS believes her aim of visiting United States was simply for marrying a US Citizen. Once a violation of visa regulation is recorded, it will be difficult if not impossible for the person to ever receive a K-1 visa or any other type of visa to the USA. It is best to make sure you understand the requirements of a fiancé visa.

What are the requirements for a fiancée visa? You must be a U.S. citizen. You have met your fiancée in person within the previous two years Both you and your fiancée are legally free to marry. You meet certain minimum income requirements.* Your fiancée does not have a criminal record. Your fiancée has not violated certain U.S. immigration laws.

Can my fiancée or potential fiancée enter the U.S. on a B-1/2 visitor visa to satisfy the personal meeting requirement described above?

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If she is from a "third world" country or a country of the former Soviet Union, she will not be able to legally obtain a visitors visa to the U.S. If she is from a country such as England, Canada, Australia, etc., she will be able to enter the U.S. on either a visitor's visa or on visa waiver. However, she must still return to her country to obtain a fiancee visa if your intention is to marry her.

How long does it take to obtain a fiancee visa?

The times vary and are constantly changing depending on the area of the U.S. in which you reside and the country in which your fiancee resides, but generally it should not exceed 3–4 months if the application is handled correctly. The "secrets" to the timing are to ensure that the fiancee visa petition is perfect when it is submitted to the USCIS and that you or your attorney monitor the case as it processes through the bureaucratic system. If you have an attorney, he or she must have the knowledge and experience necessary to solve any problems that may pop up with either the USCIS or

the Embassy. Unfortunately, problems do occur even when the petition is perfect. Keep in mind that the officers at both the USCIS and the Embassies are tremendously overworked and sometimes under trained. Like any job, some officers enjoy their work more than do others. If you are able to get through on the general public phone lines, the USCIS or US Consulate staff you talk to has only a computer screen in front of them to look at – not your case file – and can only make educated guesses as to what the status is. However, many staff members are unfamiliar with the fiancee visa or spousal visa processes because the K visa represents only a small fraction of immigration filings. A problem at the USCIS can delay your petition 3 months or longer and a problem at the Embassy can delay the application 6–12 months. If such a delay occurs you want to have someone representing you who knows what to do and how to do it in order to keep the delay to a minimum.

Can a fiancee visa be refused?

Yes, though if you and your fiancee are genuine and meet the requirements this should not happen. Of the thousands of fiancee visa petitions filed with the USCIS every year, only approximately 60% result in a fiancee visa ever being issued by the Embassies. Why the figure is so low? Of the 40% that do not make it, most are not denied but are terminated, by either the fiancee or U.S. fiance, because there were problems with either the USCIS or the Embassy that created long delays in the processing. So the timing is very essential in the fiancee visa process.

What is the best way to approach the fiancee visa process?

There are several ways you can approach the fiancee visa process:

1. You can attempt to handle the paperwork yourself.

You and your fiancee fill out all documents yourselves, send them to USCIS, and wait for the results.

2. You can use a so called "fiancee visa service" to assist you.

In this way you hire somebody to fill out the documents for you and your fiancee, send them to USCIS,

and wait for the results. This is probably the least desirable method as the "services", although they may lead you to believe they are attorneys, are in fact not US Immigration attorneys. When a problem or delay occurs in the normal course of processing, they cannot represent you or your fiancée before the Immigration and Naturalization Service or with the appropriate U.S. Embassy. When they cannot provide immigration help, or are unwilling to do so, you have no one to complain to because they are unlicensed and unregulated. Especially, do not hire an agency overseas. Fiancée visas are processed according to U.S. law, not the laws of the country where your fiancée resides. "Foreign agents" outside the U.S. are nearly always a scam. Always ask for a license when hiring an immigration service.

3. You can hire a U.S. immigration law firm that specializes in fiancée visas.

Although this is the more expensive of the three approaches, if you want your fiancée with you in the U.S. with speed and certainty and with the least amount of hassles, delays, investigations or denials, this is certainly the way to go. In your search for a U.S. immigration law firm to handle your matter, it is important to find someone who has the knowledge and skill to work your case through the system in a timely manner to the successful issuance of the visa, and has the necessary experience and established connections.

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Dating Russian Women: The Crazy Thing OR A Wonderful Opportunity?

By Elena Petrova

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My site is on the top of many search engines for the search query "Russian brides", and as the result I receive lots of requests for interviews from journalists all over the world, and the question they invariably ask is: "Why western men look for Russian women?"

So let me once and forever explain you the reason why thousands western men flock to Russia in

search for their love partner.

The answer is benevolently straightforward: they can meet in Russia a partner of better quality than is available for them at home!

They are NOT looking for a *Russian* woman - they are looking for a *better quality* woman!

But why it is possible?

I know what you think: you think it is because Russian women are desperate to escape from Russia.

Well, such thinking is pure ignorance.

Check the websites of American expatriates living in Russia (yes, there is a huge community of Americans permanently living in Russia, with their own newspapers and websites!) and you will confirm what I am saying: women who seek partners abroad do it because they want to meet a suitable partner that they failed to meet at home. They are not looking to immigrate. They are looking to find their love!

Hard to believe?

Read on, I will explain.

The fundamental reason for that lies in Russian demographics.

You know that men to women ratios differ dramatically between the countries.

For example, the latest figures from The Economist show that in United Arab Emirates there are 186 males for 100 females. It's clear the competition for eligible females should be stiff there. If you are a single male, The Emirates will be the last place in the world to look for an available woman – unless you live there, of course.

Now, what is the best place for a single male to score?

Let's look at the world statistics again.

The lowest men to women ratios are in Eastern Europe!

Countries like Russia and Ukraine are on the top of the list, with only 88 males to 100 females. The latest Russian census provided astounding figures of 10 million more women than men.

There the situation is exactly the opposite way around: eligible bachelors are more precious than gold.

So if you were a single male, exploring your dating options in Russia would make the perfect sense!

One wise man said: "Craziness is to do the same thing expecting a different result."

If you ever grow tired of your local dating market, or would like to expand your opportunities, check

Russia: you will be amazed what kind of women can be available for you there!

Elena Petrova is well known in the Russian dating industry by her website Russian Brides Cyber Guide(<http://www.womenrussia.com>), which is an informational source about Russia and Russian women. She holds master's degree in philosophy and authored several highly successful books about Internet dating. Get your FREE copy of "9 Simple Rules For Dating Russian Women" – send blank email to freedatingbook@getresponse.com

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