



Consular Section
March 20, 2009

Iveta Zalpītēre
Ministry for Children, Family and Integration Affairs
Zigfrīda Annas Meierovics blvd. 14
Rīga, LV-1050

Dear Ms. Zalpītēre:

In my duties as Consul of the United States in Latvia, it has come to my attention that a domestic nonprofit corporation from the United States of America, *Simple Obedience Ministries, Inc.*, and its partner a certified adoption services provider *One World Adoption Services* have attempted to provide evidence to the Ministry for Family, Children and Integration Affairs to show that their host family exchange program for Latvian children meets the requirements of the recently amended Latvian Law On Protection Of Rights Of The Child.

I have reviewed the statements and documentary evidence submitted by the above organizations to the Ministry. Please be informed that, in my opinion, the documentary evidence presented by Susan Secor Manning (representing *One World Adoption Services*) and by Jennifer Peters (representing *Simple Obedience Ministries, Inc.*) demonstrates that the activities carried out by these organizations are consistent with U.S. state and federal laws for these types of organizations.

Over the past years the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Riga has closely monitored this host family exchange program for Latvian children. It has been a great success without incident. Based on their prior actions, *Simple Obedience Ministries, Inc.* has demonstrated that they understand and will comply with all Latvian and U.S. immigration and child protection laws. Potential adoptive parents are informed that they must comply with existing adoption laws of both countries before these children may become eligible to immigrate to the U.S. and acquire U.S. citizenship.

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I respectfully request that the Ministry permit *Simple Obedience Ministries, Inc.* and its partners to continue their host family exchange program for Latvian children known as „Simply for Latvia Hosting Program.” You will see attached to this letter documents under *Appendix* from both organizations providing additional information about their activities. Please do not hesitate to contact me at + 371 - 6703 6200 if additional information is required.

Sincerely,



Stephen T. Frahm
Consul of the United States