

FY 2009 Annual Report on Intercountry Adoptions

NOVEMBER 2009

SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 104 OF PUBLIC LAW 106-279, THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION ACT OF 2000

SEC. 104. ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS.

(a) REPORTS REQUIRED- Beginning 1 year after the date of the entry into force of the Convention for the United States and each year thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General and other appropriate agencies, shall submit a report describing the activities of the central authority of the United States under this Act during the preceding year to the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate.

(b) REPORT ELEMENTS- Each report under subsection (a) shall set forth with respect to the year concerned, the following:

- (1) The number of intercountry adoptions involving immigration to the United States, regardless of whether the adoption occurred under the Convention, including the country from which each child emigrated, the State to which each child immigrated, and the country in which the adoption was finalized.*
- (2) The number of intercountry adoptions involving emigration from the United States, regardless of whether the adoption occurred under the Convention, including the country to which each child immigrated and the State from which each child emigrated.*
- (3) The number of Convention placements for adoption in the United States that were disrupted, including the country from which the child emigrated, the age of the child, the date of the placement for adoption, the reasons for the disruption, the resolution of the disruption, the agencies that handled the placement for adoption, and the plans for the child, and in addition, any information regarding disruption or dissolution of adoptions of children from other countries received pursuant to section 422(b)(14) of the Social Security Act, as amended by section 205 of this Act.*
- (4) The average time required for completion of a Convention adoption, set forth by country from which the child emigrated.*
- (5) The current list of agencies accredited and persons approved under this Act to provide adoption services.*
- (6) The names of the agencies and persons temporarily or permanently debarred under this Act, and the reasons for the debarment.*
- (7) The range of adoption fees charged in connection with Convention adoptions involving immigration to the United States and the median of such fees set forth by the country of origin.*
- (8) The range of fees charged for accreditation of agencies and the approval of persons in the United States engaged in providing adoption services under the Convention.*



United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary of State
for Consular Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Reader:

I am pleased to present the Department of State's *Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report on Intercountry Adoption*, which primarily describes the activities of the U.S. Central Authority under the *Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption* (hereinafter Hague Adoption Convention) in accordance with the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2000. As the Central Authority, the Department of State is tasked with coordinating activities under the Convention for the United States. This report details the first full fiscal year in which the United States processed adoptions under the Hague Adoption Convention.

In Fiscal Year 2009, American families welcomed more than 12,700 children into their homes through intercountry adoption. More than 700 children were adopted to the United States in accordance with Hague Adoption Convention procedures, although the majority continued to arrive through the non-Convention procedures. The United States is committed to ensuring that intercountry adoptions to and from the United States protect each child's fundamental rights and are vigilantly screened to prevent corruption or malfeasance.

Assisting families who seek to adopt, and providing oversight of the Hague Adoption Convention accreditation process, is a top priority in the Bureau of Consular Affairs. Every child deserves a loving home, and intercountry adoption provides many children long term care and stability. The Department of State remains committed to preserving intercountry adoption as an option for children in need of this solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice L. Jacobs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "A".

Janice L. Jacobs





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THE REPORT'S PURPOSE

The information in this report is being submitted to Congress in accordance with Section 104 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA) (Public Law 106-279), which directs the Secretary of State to submit an annual report on intercountry adoptions. It describes the activities of the Department of State, the U.S. Central Authority (USCA) for the *Hague Convention for the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* (the Hague Adoption Convention) as designated by the IAA, during the period October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009, i.e., Fiscal Year 2009 (FY 2009). As required, it also provides statistics regarding, among other things, the total number of intercountry adoptions, the time required to complete these adoptions, and the associated fees as reported during that period.

ACTIVITIES OF THE U.S. CENTRAL AUTHORITY

Section 104(a) of the IAA requires the Department to “describe the activities of the central authority of the United States during the preceding year.” During FY 2009, the principal activities of the USCA included coordinating the application of the Hague Adoption Convention with other Hague Adoption Convention countries (i.e., other countries that are party to the Convention and with which the Convention is in force for the United States), monitoring and providing guidance to the designated Accrediting Entities, conducting outreach to the adoption community and the U.S. public about the Convention, maintaining the website Adoption.State.Gov (which offers information about the latest developments in intercountry adoption), and promoting Hague Adoption Convention standards for all intercountry adoptions, including those from non-Convention countries. During the year, the Department of State, in close partnership with the Department of Homeland Security’s U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), addressed a broad range of questions and issues concerning applicable law and regulations regarding the Hague Adoption Convention adoption process, and responded to questions about unusual circumstances raised by specific adoption cases. The Department maintained close contact with the adoption community—including adoptive parents, adoptees, adoption service providers, adoption attorneys and social workers. The Department also held important

coordinating discussions with the Central Authorities of other Hague Adoption Convention countries whose citizens were seeking to adopt children born in the United States. In consultation with the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law and the Central Authorities of other Convention countries, the representatives of the USCA met with officials from countries that had announced an intention to ratify or accede to the Hague Adoption Convention and were seeking information and advice regarding proposed implementing legislation, the U.S. understanding of Hague Adoption Convention provisions, and practical recommendations based upon the U.S. experience in implementing the Hague Adoption Convention.

ACTIVITIES OF USCIS

Under the IAA, the Department is designated as the Central Authority for the United States for purposes of the Hague Adoption Convention. The IAA, however, gave USCIS the responsibility for determining: 1) the eligibility and suitability of prospective adoptive parents to adopt a child from a Convention country, and 2) the eligibility of children immigrating to the United States from another Hague Adoption Convention country as a Hague Convention adoptee under section 101(b)(1)(G) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (incoming cases). USCIS centralized its process at the Hague Unit of the National Benefits Center (NBC). During the period immediately following the Convention’s entry into force for the United States, the NBC found that approximately 90 percent of incoming Hague Adoption Convention cases submitted required additional information. To reduce processing delays, the NBC implemented outreach initiatives, published the “Hague Home Study Tip Sheet” and refined processes. As a result, the NBC has seen a 35 percent reduction of cases requiring additional information and continues to work to identify ways to reduce that number.



The NBC has implemented a customer service line that allows prospective adoptive parents and adoption service providers to contact the NBC directly and talk with the officer adjudicating a particular case. For the current reporting period, the NBC reduced call wait times from 1-2 minutes to 17 seconds and processed, on average, approximately 1,350 calls monthly. The NBC also reduced the average processing time for a Form I-800A, Application for Determination of Suitability to Adopt a Child from a Convention Country, from 120 days to 30 days. At the end of this reporting period, the processing time for a Form I-800, Petition to Classify Convention Adoptee as an Immediate Relative, averaged 12 days.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

The Department and USCIS have dedicated considerable effort to developing policies and procedures that ensure extensive, day-to-day coordination and communication between the two agencies. Upon the implementation of the IAA, the two agencies worked together to verify that the impact of new regulations appropriately reflect each agency's intent. Routine consultation on individual cases allows the two agencies to develop and implement consistent policies and integrate procedures in dealing with questions concerning Hague adoptions. In addition,

the two agencies compiled information about countries and geographic entities lacking child abuse registries and jointly developed processing guides for families seeking to adopt from Hague Adoption Convention countries.

DOMESTIC OUTREACH

In FY 2009, the Department and USCIS continued their active participation in conferences, panels, and meetings on intercountry adoptions, including presentations at the annual conferences of more than a half dozen national or regional adoption organizations. Partnership efforts have included joint outreach to adoption stakeholders and training for adoption service providers and prospective adoptive parents. USCIS organized monthly meetings with adoption stakeholders to ensure communication on the procedures and requirements for submitting Form I-800A applications and Form I-800 petitions. The Department of State provided regular updates to prospective adoptive parents and adoption professionals through its website, Adoption.State.Gov, and issued *Adoption Notices* and *Adoption Alerts* about adopting from a specific country.



USCIS launched a redesigned website, which offers enhanced navigational tools that are transparent and promote customer awareness of the Hague Adoption Convention process. It is available in English and Spanish. This website provides:

- An overview of the Hague Adoption Convention process and eligibility requirements;
- A Hague Adoption Convention home study tip sheet;
- Information on the validity periods of petition approvals and how to apply for extensions ; and
- Descriptions of required security background checks.

In June 2009, USCIS created a general email box for inquiries related to adoption casework. During the year, USCIS provided training on the Hague Adoption Convention process to over one hundred Immigration Services Officers from USCIS domestic field offices. The training was designed to highlight the differences between the Hague Convention and non-Convention adoption processes and to assist the field offices in customer service enhancements. The training also explained the criteria for processing “grandfathered” (non-Convention) cases that were in process before the entry into force of the Convention. See IAA, Section 505(b).

EFFORTS TO EXPAND AND STRENGTHEN THE HAGUE ADOPTION CONVENTION

State Department and USCIS officials participated in meetings and conferences with members of the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law as well as representatives of other Central Authorities, including counterparts from Australia, Canada, China, India, Mexico, The Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Thailand. These meetings, as well as additional conference calls and written correspondence, covered a wide range of issues, including home study preparation, special needs adoptions, and prospective adoptive parents acting on their own behalf.

State Department and USCIS officials in Washington and at U.S. embassies overseas also met with officials in many non-Convention countries during the year to discuss the United States’ strong support of the Hague Adoption Convention and to recommend that non-Convention countries join the Convention or take steps to implement adoption practices that reflect the Convention’s

standards and procedures. These discussions included discussions with countries from all regions of the world, notably Cambodia, Ethiopia, Haiti, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Liberia, Nepal, Russia, South Korea, Ukraine, and Vietnam.

ADOPTION TRACKING SERVICE

As required by Section 102(e) of the IAA, the Department established the Adoption Tracking Service (ATS), a registry that tracks all intercountry adoptions to and from the United States and permits retrieval of information on both pending and closed cases. The registry is maintained as an electronic data collection service for all intercountry adoptions. ATS has four primary functions:

1. Track all incoming and outgoing adoption cases involving the United States, regardless of whether the case occurs under the Hague Adoption Convention;
2. Manage and track the accreditation or approval status of adoption service providers;
3. Manage adoption service provider and accrediting entity contact information; and
4. Record and track complaints lodged against adoption service providers.

Adoption service providers and accrediting entities obtain security software to access ATS, and input the required adoption case-related and fee information in the system. The public may register complaints through the Hague Complaint Registry component of ATS. The Department monitors the operation of the system to see where enhancements and upgrades can be made. In October 2008, the USCA conducted a second series of training sessions for all Hague Adoption Convention accredited and approved adoption service providers on the use of ATS and the data input requirements in order to provide clear guidance on Hague Adoption Convention reporting requirements for individual adoption cases.

ACCREDITING ENTITY MONITORING AND OVERSIGHT

The Council on Accreditation (COA) and the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) are the two Department of State-designated Accrediting Entities. These entities evaluate whether an adoption service provider applicant – as well as already accredited or approved adoption service providers – are in substantial compliance with accreditation standards.

In FY 2009, the Department implemented its yearly cycle of monitoring and oversight of the Accrediting Entities, which is divided into three main areas – ongoing activities, onsite inspections, and annual senior level performance reviews. The USCA monitors and oversees the performance of the Accrediting Entities through continuing meetings and other communication, performs an onsite annual inspection of each Accrediting Entity’s files, and conducts a senior level review of each organization. Department personnel conducted oversight visits and senior performance reviews of COA and CDHS in November 2008 and in January, April, and August of 2009. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Overseas Citizens Services led the senior performance reviews.



ACCREDITED AGENCIES AND APPROVED PERSONS

Organizations and individuals that provide any one of six adoption services identified by the IAA generally must be accredited, temporarily accredited, approved, exempted, or supervised.

Section 104(b)(5) of the IAA requires that this report include “the current list of agencies accredited and persons approved under this Act to provide adoption services.” As of September 30, 2009, the following adoption service providers are accredited, temporarily accredited, or approved by the Accrediting Entities.¹ Unless otherwise indicated, the adoption service provider handles only adoptions to the United States.

¹ The USCA adds the names of adoption service providers to Adoption.State.Gov as they are accredited or approved. Providers may be removed from this list or subject to other adverse actions if they are found not to be in substantial compliance with the accreditation standards.

ACCREDITED, TEMPORARILY ACCREDITED, OR APPROVED ADOPTION SERVICE PROVIDERS

**A Act of Love / Alternative Options and Services

A Helping Hand Adoption Agency

A New Arrival

A Red Thread Adoption Services

**AAA Full Circle Adoptions & Family Building Center

AAC Adoption and Family Network, Inc.

ABC Adoption Services

About a Child

Across the World Adoptions

Adopolis

Adopt Abroad

**Adopt International (CA)

Adopt-A-Child

Adoption Advocates International

Adoption Alliance

Adoption and Home Study Specialists

Adoption Ark

Adoption Associates

Adoption Avenues

Adoption Center of Washington

Adoption Choice, Inc.

Adoption Covenant

Adoption Home Studies

Adoption Hope International

Adoption Horizons

Adoption Links Worldwide

Adoption Miracle International

Adoption of Babies and Children, Inc.

Adoption Options (CA)

Adoption Options (CO)

Adoption Options of Jewish Family Service

Adoption Related Services, Inc.

Adoption Resource Associates

*Adoption Resource Center / Adoption ARC

Adoption S.T.A.R.

**Adoption-Link, Inc.

Adoptions Together

Adoptive Families for Children

*Advocates for Children & Families

Alaska International Adoption Agency

All Blessings International / Kentucky Adoption Services

All God's Children International (AGCI) / Families are Forever International

ACCREDITED, TEMPORARILY ACCREDITED, OR APPROVED ADOPTION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Alliance for Children

Amazing Grace

America World Adoption

**American Adoptions

American International Adoption Agency

Americans Adopting Orphans Placement Agency

Americans for International Aid and Adoption

Angel Dance International

Associated Catholic Charities Inc., Child & Family Services Division

Associated Services for International Adoption (ASIA)

Baby Steps International Adoption

Baker Hall / Baker Victory Services

Bal Jagat Children's World

Bay Area Adoption Services

Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau

Bethany Christian Services

Buckner Adoption & Maternity Services

Building Arizona Families

Carolina Adoption Services, Inc.

CASI Foundation for Children, Inc.

Catholic Charities of Fairfield County, Inc.

Catholic Charities North Dakota

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Hartford

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Baton Rouge

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greenburg, PA

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Peoria

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester / Catholic Family Center

Catholic Guardian Society & Home Bureau

Catholic Social Services of Fall River

Catholic Social Services of Southern Illinois

Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Charlotte, North Carolina, Inc.

Cherished Children International Adoption Agency

Child Adoption Associates

Child and Family Service

Children at Heart Adoption Services

Children of the World

Children's Home + Aid

Children's Home Society & Family Services

Children's Home Society of West Virginia

* Adoption service providers that handle both adoptions to and from the United States.

** Adoption service providers that handle only adoptions from the United States.

ACCREDITED, TEMPORARILY ACCREDITED, OR APPROVED ADOPTION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Children's Hope International
China Adoption with Love
Chinese Children Adoption International
Christian Adoption Services
Christian World Adoption
Chrysalis House
Cradle of Hope Adoption Center
Creative Adoptions
Crossroads Adoption Services
DeColores Adoptions International
Dillon International
Dillon Southwest
Dove Adoptions International
Euroasian Adoption Consultants of Illinois
European Adoption Consultants
European Children Adoption Services
Faith International Adoptions
Families Thru International Adoption, Inc.
Families United Network, Inc.
Family & Children's Agency, Inc.
Family Adoption Consultants
**Family Choices, NFPC
Family Connections Christian Adoptions
Family Creations
Family Focus Adoption Services
**Family Resource Center
For This Child
**Forever Families Through Adoption, Inc.
Frank Adoption Center (NC)
Generations Adoptions
Gift of Love International Adoptions
Glenkirk
Global Adoption Services
God's Families International Adoption Services
**Golden Cradle Adoption Services
Good Hope Adoption Services
Grace International Adoption Agency
Graham's Gift Children's Foundation
Great Wall China Adoption / Children of all Nations
Guatemalan Adoptions, NFP

ACCREDITED, TEMPORARILY ACCREDITED, OR APPROVED ADOPTION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Hand in Hand International Adoptions
Hands Across the Water
Happy Families International Center
Hawaii International Child Placement and Family Services, Inc.
Heart to Heart Adoption Service
Heartsent Adoptions
Heritage Adoption Services
Hillside Family of Agencies
Holston United Methodist Home for Children
Holt International Children's Services, Inc.
Holy Cross Child Placement Agency, Inc.
Homeland Adoption Services
Homestudies and Adoption Placement Services
Hope Adoption / Hope International
Hope Adoption and Family Services International, Inc.
Hope Cottage, Inc.
Hope's Promise
Hopscotch Adoptions, Inc.
Huminska's Anioly
**Illien Adoptions International
Integrity
**International Adoption Guides, Inc.
International Adoption Net
International Adoption Services
International Adoption Services Centre
International Assistance Group
International Child Foundation
International Christian Adoptions
International Families, Inc.
International Family Services
**Irene Steffas, PC
*James Fletcher Thompson, LLC
Jewish Child Care Association
Jewish Family and Children's Services
Jewish Family Service of Greater Harrisburg
Jewish Family Service of Metrowest
Jewish Family Service of Rochester
Jewish Family Service of San Diego / Adoption Alliance of San Diego

ACCREDITED, TEMPORARILY ACCREDITED, OR APPROVED ADOPTION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Jewish Family Service of the North Shore, Inc.
 Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts
 Jewish Family Service of Worcester
 Joshua Tree Adoptions, Inc. / American-International Children's Alliance
 Journeys of the Heart Adoption Services
 Karing Angels International Adoptions
 Kids to Adopt
 KidsFirst Adoption Services, Inc.
 La Vida International
 LDS Family Services
 Life Adoption Services
 Lifeline Children's Services
 Lifelink Corporation / Hoyleton Youth & Family Services
 Little Miracles International
 Littlest Angels
 Living Hope Adoption Agency
 Love Basket
 Lutheran Community Services of Southern New England
 Lutheran Family & Children's Services of Missouri
 Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
 Lutheran Social Services of New York
 Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc.
 Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.
 Madison Adoption Associates
 MAPS
 **Michael S. Goldstein, Esq.
 New Beginnings Family & Children's Services
 New Beginnings International Children and Family Services
 New Horizons Adoption Agency
 New Life Adoption Agency
 Nightlight Christian Adoptions
 One World Adoption Services
 Orphans Overseas
 Our Children's Homestead
 Partners for Adoption
 Pauquette Adoption Service
 Pearl S. Buck International
 **Premier Adoption Agency, Inc.

ACCREDITED, TEMPORARILY ACCREDITED, OR APPROVED ADOPTION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Resources for Life
 Saint Mary International Adoption
 **Shepherd Care Ministries / Adoption by Shepherd Care
 Small World
 Small World Adoption Foundation of Missouri, Inc.
 Spence-Chapin Services to Families & Children
 Sunny Ridge Family Center, Inc.
 The Baby Fold
 The Barker Foundation
 The Cradle
 The Datz Foundation
 The Family Network, Inc.
 The Florence Crittenton League of Lowell / Florence Crittenton League
 The Gladney Center for Adoption
 The Home for Little Wanderers
 The Lutheran Service Society of New York
 The Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers
 **The Open Door Adoption Agency
 The Open Way Adoptions
 Tree of Life Adoption Center
 Villa Hope International Adoptions
 Vista del Mar Child and Family Services
 **Voice for International Development and Adoption (V.I.D.A.)
 WACAP (World Association for Children and Parents)
 Wasatch International Adoptions
 West Sands Adoptions
 Wide Horizons for Children
 World Links Association
 Worlds Together

* Adoption service providers that handle both adoptions to and from the United States.

** Adoption service providers that handle only adoptions from the United States.



DEBARRED AGENCIES AND PERSONS

Section 104(b)(6) of the IAA requires that this report include “the names of agencies and persons temporarily or permanently debarred under this Act, and the reasons for the debarment.” As of September 30, 2009, the USCA has not debarred an accredited, temporarily accredited, or approved adoption service provider.



ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL FEES

Section 104(b)(8) of the IAA requires that this report contain information on “the range of fees charged for accreditation of agencies and the approval of persons in the United States engaged in providing adoption services under the Convention.” The following chart presents the range of fees, as charged by both accrediting entities; fees are based on a sliding scale that varies according to the agency or person’s volume of business.

FEE TYPE	MINIMUM FEE	MAXIMUM FEE
Accreditation	\$2,000	\$6,800
Additional Evaluator	\$225	\$225
New Applicant Application	\$3	\$4,000
Oversight	\$800	\$800
Site Visit (1-3 days)	\$1,200	\$1,200
Temporary Accreditation	\$1,600	\$2,480

IMMIGRATING (INCOMING) ADOPTIONS

Section 104(b)(1) of the IAA requires that this report contain “the number of intercountry adoptions involving immigration to the United States, regardless of whether the adoption occurred under the Convention, including the country from which each child emigrated, the State to which each child immigrated, and the country in which the adoption was finalized.”

From October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009, 12,753 children received visas to immigrate to the United States based on their prior adoptions overseas or for the purposes of adoption in the United States. The Department refers to these adoptions as immigrating (incoming) adoptions. (Note that a child’s receipt of an immigrant visa during the reporting period does not indicate that his or her adoption was completed during that period.)

The following chart indicates the number of such immigrant visas issued during the reporting period (October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009), the country from which each child emigrated, and whether the adoption was finalized in the child’s country of origin (full and final adoption) or was to be finalized in the United States (custody for purposes of adoption).

INCOMING ADOPTION STATISTICS - BY COUNTRY (10/1/08 - 9/30/09)			
COUNTRY OR TERRITORY	ADOPTIONS FINALIZED ABROAD	ADOPTIONS TO BE FINALIZED IN U.S.	TOTAL ADOPTIONS
Afghanistan	0	5	5
Albania	5	0	5
Algeria	3	0	3
Antigua & Barbuda	3	0	3
Argentina	1	0	1
Armenia	12	8	20
Bangladesh	0	12	12
Barbados	1	1	2
Belize	2	4	6
Benin	2	0	2
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2	1	3
Brazil	32	0	32
Bulgaria	12	3	15
Burkina Faso	2	0	2
Burundi	4	0	4
Cameroon	7	0	7

INCOMING ADOPTION STATISTICS - BY COUNTRY (10/1/08 - 9/30/09)			
COUNTRY OR TERRITORY	ADOPTIONS FINALIZED ABROAD	ADOPTIONS TO BE FINALIZED IN U.S.	TOTAL ADOPTIONS
Canada	0	3	3
China – Mainland	2,785	216	3,001
Colombia	238	0	238
Dem. Rep. of Congo	12	9	21
Costa Rica	0	1	1
Cote D'Ivoire	4	2	6
Dominica	1	0	1
Dominican Republic	11	0	11
Ecuador	12	1	13
Egypt	0	2	2
El Salvador	9	0	9
Equatorial Guinea	1	0	1
Eritrea	7	7	14
Estonia	9	0	9
Ethiopia	164	2,105	2,269
Fiji	1	0	1
Ghana	80	23	103
Greece	2	0	2
Grenada	1	0	1
Guatemala	528	228	756
Guyana	36	2	38
Haiti	245	85	330
Honduras	1	3	4
Hong Kong SAR	0	12	12
Hungary	7	0	7
India	21	276	297
Indonesia	3	0	3
Iran	0	9	9
Italy	2	0	2
Jamaica	22	32	54
Japan	11	32	43
Jordan	0	4	4
Kazakhstan	296	0	296
Kenya	21	0	21
Kyrgyzstan	14	5	19
Laos	8	0	8
Latvia	28	0	28
Lebanon	6	4	10
Liberia	11	24	35

INCOMING ADOPTION STATISTICS - BY COUNTRY
(10/1/08 - 9/30/09)

COUNTRY OR TERRITORY	ADOPTIONS FINALIZED ABROAD	ADOPTIONS TO BE FINALIZED IN U.S.	TOTAL ADOPTIONS
Lithuania	22	0	22
Lesotho	2	0	2
Macedonia	1	0	1
Malawi	3	0	3
Malaysia	1	0	1
Marshall Islands	22	0	22
Mexico	63	9	72
Moldova	5	0	5
Mongolia	8	0	8
Morocco	0	20	20
Mozambique	1	0	1
Nepal	5	1	6
Nicaragua	28	0	28
Nigeria	100	10	110
Pakistan	0	33	33
Peru	28	1	29
Philippines	53	227	280
Poland	50	0	50
Romania	5	0	5
Russia	1,583	5	1,588
Rwanda	12	10	22
Samoa	2	0	2
Senegal	2	2	4
Serbia	4	0	4
Sierra Leone	4	2	6
Singapore	1	0	1
South Africa	2	0	2
South Korea	2	1,077	1,079
Sri Lanka	5	0	5
St. Barthelemy	1	0	1
St. Lucia	1	0	1
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	11	0	11
Swaziland	13	1	14
Taiwan	236	17	253
Tanzania	4	0	4
Thailand	4	54	58
The Gambia	2	6	8
Tonga	7	0	7
Trinidad and Tobago	0	2	2
Tunisia	1	0	1

INCOMING ADOPTION STATISTICS - BY COUNTRY
(10/1/08 - 9/30/09)

COUNTRY OR TERRITORY	ADOPTIONS FINALIZED ABROAD	ADOPTIONS TO BE FINALIZED IN U.S.	TOTAL ADOPTIONS
Turkey	1	0	1
Uganda	4	65	69
Ukraine	554	53	607
United Arab Emirates	0	1	1
United Kingdom	1	2	3
Uzbekistan	5	0	5
Vanuatu	1	0	1
Vietnam	437	44	481
Zambia	8	0	8
Zimbabwe	2	0	2
TOTAL:	7992	4761	12,753

The following chart indicates the number of incoming adoptions that occurred during the reporting period, the U.S. state to which each child immigrated, and whether the adoption was finalized in the child's country of origin (full and final adoption) or was to be finalized in the United States (custody for purposes of adoption).

INCOMING ADOPTION STATISTICS - BY STATE
(10/1/08 - 9/30/09)

U.S. STATE OR TERRITORY	ADOPTIONS FINALIZED ABROAD	ADOPTIONS TO BE FINALIZED IN U.S.	TOTAL ADOPTIONS
Overseas Americans	16	2	18
Alabama	118	33	151
Alaska	24	16	40
Arizona	111	93	204
Arkansas	47	32	79
California	632	412	1,044
Colorado	187	163	350
Connecticut	102	57	159
Delaware	22	17	39
District of Columbia	37	10	47
Florida	403	140	543
Georgia	247	111	358
Guam	2	7	9
Hawaii	45	34	79
Idaho	42	32	74
Illinois	343	228	571
Indiana	239	122	361

**INCOMING ADOPTION STATISTICS - BY STATE
(10/1/08 - 9/30/09)**

U.S. STATE OR TERRITORY	ADOPTIONS FINALIZED ABROAD	ADOPTIONS TO BE FINALIZED IN U.S.	TOTAL ADOPTIONS
Iowa	77	75	152
Kansas	96	66	162
Kentucky	151	111	262
Louisiana	71	29	100
Maine	27	30	57
Maryland	171	130	301
Massachusetts	236	122	358
Michigan	312	200	512
Minnesota	235	216	451
Mississippi	44	9	53
Missouri	208	103	311
Montana	23	35	58
Nebraska	49	39	88
Nevada	22	5	27
New Hampshire	45	44	89
New Jersey	264	130	394
New Mexico	29	26	55
New York	526	220	746
North Carolina	267	146	413
North Dakota	9	12	21
Ohio	319	145	464
Oklahoma	60	43	103
Oregon	108	134	242
Pennsylvania	349	164	513
Puerto Rico	17	0	17
Rhode Island	15	5	20
South Carolina	89	39	128
South Dakota	27	28	55
Tennessee	201	105	306
Texas	451	199	650
Utah	103	41	144
Vermont	19	14	33
Virgin Islands	0	1	1
Virginia	289	150	439
Washington	257	245	502
West Virginia	27	14	41

**INCOMING ADOPTION STATISTICS - BY STATE
(10/1/08 - 9/30/09)**

U.S. STATE OR TERRITORY	ADOPTIONS FINALIZED ABROAD	ADOPTIONS TO BE FINALIZED IN U.S.	TOTAL ADOPTIONS
Wisconsin	171	166	337
Wyoming	11	11	22
TOTAL:	7992	4761	12,753

EMIGRATING (OUTGOING) ADOPTIONS

Section 104(b)(2) of the IAA requires that this report contain “the number of intercountry adoptions involving emigration from the United States, regardless of whether the adoption occurred under the Convention, including the country to which each child immigrated and the State from which each child emigrated.” The Department refers to these adoptions as emigrating (outgoing) adoptions.

From October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009, 26 children emigrated from the United States for the purposes of adoption. The following charts indicate the states of origin for these children and the foreign countries to which they emigrated.

**OUTGOING ADOPTION STATISTICS
(10/1/08 - 9/30/09)**

AUSTRIA	1
New York	1
CANADA	5
Florida	1
Nevada	1
South Carolina	2
Utah	1
GERMANY	1
California	1
THE NETHERLANDS	17
California	1
Florida	13
Indiana	1
New York	2
UNITED KINGDOM	2
Florida	2
TOTAL:	26

2010 CONVENTION COUNTRIES

CONVENTION COUNTRIES ■



VISA PROCESSING

During the reporting period, the Department continued to review and revise procedural guidance for consular officers through the Department’s *Foreign Affairs Manual* and through advisory opinions provided to consular officers. During the reporting period, the Department, USCIS’ National Benefits Center, and the National Visa Center implemented electronic file sharing, eliminating the need for adoption files to be physically transferred overseas for visa processing.

LENGTH OF HAGUE ADOPTION CONVENTION PROCESS

Section 104(b)(4) of the IAA requires that this report contain “the average time required for completion of a Convention adoption, set forth by country from which the child emigrated.”

From October 1, 2008 through September 30, 2009, 714 immigrating Hague Adoption Convention adoptions or grants of custody were completed under the Convention. The following chart indicates the number of Hague Adoption Convention adoptions or grants of custody per country from which the child emigrated, as well as the average time it took to complete the adoption or grant of custody for each country. The time is calculated from the day that USCIS received the Form I-800A application to the day the child received an immigrant visa to travel to the United States. The average completion time includes the amount of time taken by a foreign country to approve the eligibility of a prospective adoptive parent(s). With respect to visa processing, the Department considers intercountry adoption a top priority. Initial interviews for immigrant visas relating to intercountry adoption take place within days of the interview request. The subsequent visas are generally ready by the next business day.

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF ADOPTIONS	AVERAGE FOR COMPLETION (DAYS)
Albania	3	221
Armenia	1	70
Bulgaria	4	261
Burkina Faso	2	337
Canada	1	220
China – Mainland	410	243
Colombia	78	252
Ecuador	4	186
El Salvador	1	194

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF ADOPTIONS	AVERAGE FOR COMPLETION (DAYS)
Estonia	1	84
Hong Kong S.A.R.	9	257
India	56	286
Latvia	4	354
Lithuania	1	270
Mexico	11	289
Moldova	1	49
Mongolia	1	295
Peru	4	424
Philippines	91	219
Poland	14	287
South Africa	1	203
Sri Lanka	1	206
Thailand	12	340
United Kingdom	3	250

FEES FOR HAGUE ADOPTION CONVENTION ADOPTIONS

The IAA requires accredited and approved adoption service providers to disclose in advance all fees charged to process a Hague Adoption Convention adoption. Accredited and approved adoption service providers itemize and disclose in each adoption services contract the total expected fees for the adoption so that prospective adoption parents may understand the fees associated with the adoption before any adoption services are provided.



Section 104(b)(7) of the IAA requires that this report contain “the range of adoption fees charged in connection with Hague Adoption Convention adoptions involving immigration to the United States and the median of such fees set forth by the country of origin.” The following chart indicates the range of adoption fees charged in connection with Hague Adoption Convention adoptions involving immigration to the United States, based upon information reported directly to the Department by the accredited or approved adoption service providers through the Adoptions Tracking Service.

FEE TYPE	MAXIMUM FEE	AVERAGE FEE	MEDIAN FEE
Adoption Expenses in the U.S.	\$42,000	\$3,449	\$2,000
Care of Child	\$6,950	\$1,174	\$1,000
Contributions to Child Welfare Service Programs in the Child’s Country of Origin	\$11,000	\$2,270	\$1,500
Foreign Country Program Expenses	\$35,790	\$7,498	\$6,000
Home Study Fee	\$5,200	\$1,377	\$1,500
Post-Placement & Post-Adoption Reports	\$4,000	\$865	\$700
Third-Party Fees	\$22,000	\$1,589	\$750
Translation & Document Expenses	\$5,909	\$902	\$625
Travel & Accommodation Expenses	\$36,000	\$4,477	\$3,850

The following chart provides the median fees that adoption service providers collect in connection with a Hague Adoption Convention adoption from individual countries of origin. The data is based upon information reported directly to the Department by the accredited or approved adoption service providers through the Adoptions Tracking Service.

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	MEDIAN FEE
Albania	\$19,930.00
Armenia	\$15,800.00
Azerbaijan	\$20,370.00
Brazil	\$12,800.00
Bulgaria	\$15,328.00
Burundi	\$5,500.00
China	\$12,753.00

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	MEDIAN FEE
Colombia	\$15,350.00
Costa Rica	\$8,500.00
Dominican Republic	\$6,500.00
Ecuador	\$14,000.00
El Salvador	\$12,090.00
Estonia	\$8,500.00
Ethiopia	\$14,050.00
Georgia	\$18,800.00
Hong Kong	\$11,500.00
Hungary	\$20,000.00
India	\$14,250.00
Kenya	\$6,230.00
Latvia	\$15,365.00
Lithuania	\$20,082.00
Madagascar	\$8,700.00
Mexico	\$15,000.00
Moldova	\$14,655.00
Mongolia	\$1,250.00
Panama	\$16,555.00
Peru	\$10,817.00
Philippines	\$7,125.00
Poland	\$18,595.00
Romania	\$2,390.00
Sri Lanka	\$8,650.00
Thailand	\$9,415.00

DISRUPTED HAGUE ADOPTION CONVENTION ADOPTIONS

Section 104(b)(3) of the IAA requires that this report include “the number of Convention placements for adoption in the United States that were disrupted, including the country from which the child emigrated, the age of the child, the date of placement for adoption, the reasons for the disruption, the resolution of the disruption, the agencies that handled the placement for adoption, and the plans for the child, and in addition, any information regarding disruption or dissolution of adoptions of children from other countries received pursuant to section 422(b)(14) of the Social Security Act, as amended by section 205 of this Act.”

From October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009, no cases were reported to the USCA that fit this reporting requirement.





Accrediting Entity: An entity that has been designated by the U.S. Secretary of State to accredit agencies (including temporarily accredit) and/or to approve persons for purposes of providing adoption services in the United States in cases subject to the Convention.

Adoption: The judicial or administrative act that establishes a permanent legal parent-child relationship between a minor and an adult who is not already the minor's legal parent and terminates the legal parent-child relationship between the adoptive child and any former parent(s).

Adoption Service: Any one of the following six services:

1. Identifying a child for adoption and arranging an adoption;
2. Securing the necessary consent to termination of parental rights and to adoption;
3. Performing a background study on a child or a home study on a prospective adoptive parent(s), and reporting on such a study;
4. Making non-judicial determinations of the best interests of a child and the appropriateness of an adoptive placement for the child;
5. Monitoring a case after a child has been placed with prospective adoptive parent(s) until final adoption; and
6. When necessary because of a disruption before final adoption, assuming custody and providing (including facilitating the provision of) child care or any other social service pending an alternative placement.

Agency: A private, nonprofit organization licensed to provide adoption services in at least one State.

Central Authority: The entity designated as such under Article 6(1) of the Convention by any Convention country or, in the case of the United States, the United States Department of State.

Complaint Registry: The system created by the Secretary pursuant to §96.70 to receive, distribute, and monitor complaints relevant to the accreditation or approval status of agencies and persons.

Convention Adoption: The adoption of a child resident in a Convention country by a United States citizen, or an adoption of a child resident in the United States by an individual or individuals residing in a Convention country, when, in connection with the adoption, the child has moved or will move between the United States and the Convention country.

Convention Country: A country that is a party to the Convention and with which the Convention is in force for the United States.

Country of Origin: The country in which a child is resident and from which a child is emigrating in connection with his or her adoption.

Disruption: The interruption of a placement for adoption during the post-placement period.

Person: An individual or a private, for-profit entity (including a corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society, or joint stock company) providing adoption services. It does not include public domestic authorities or public foreign authorities.

Post-Adoption: After an adoption; in cases in which an adoption occurs in a Convention country and is followed by a re-adoption in the United States, after the adoption in the Convention country.

Post-Placement: After a grant of legal custody or guardianship of the child to the prospective adoptive parents, or to a custodian for the purpose of escorting the child to the identified prospective adoptive parents, and before an adoption.

