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Lesotho

October 30, 2012

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Notice: Lesotho Deposits Its Instruments of Accession to the Hague Adoption Convention

On June 18, 2012, the Kingdom of Lesotho deposited its instrument of accession to the *Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption Convention* (Hague Adoption Convention) with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. On August 24, the Kingdom of Lesotho designated the Ministry of Social Development as the Central Authority (the Ministry) for the Convention. The Hague Adoption Convention will enter into force for Lesotho on December 1, 2012.

Adoption Cases in Progress

The Ministry has advised the U.S. Central Authority that existing laws, rules and procedures will apply to any adoption where a Mosotho child was officially matched with prospective adoptive parents prior to the entry into force of the Convention on December 1, 2012. The Ministry defines an official match as any child who matched with prospective adoptive parents during a matching meeting chaired by a Ministry official and involving representatives of Lesotho childcare facilities and adoption service providers.

The Ministry will process cases initiated on or after December 1, 2012, and those that do not meet the criteria outlined above as Convention cases.

Questions regarding whether an adoption may proceed under the old laws and regulations may be addressed directly to:

Limakatso Chisepo
Principal Secretary
Ministry of Social Development
Parliament Road
Maseru 100, Lesotho
Telephone: 226 5803 8783
Email: chisepol@health.gov.ls

Please continue to monitor [adoption.state.gov](#) for updated information.