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Ethiopia

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Notice: MOWCYA Decision on U.S. ASPs approved to work with former IAG cases in Ethiopia

Following the February 11 arrest and indictment in the U.S. of several employees of the U.S. adoption service provider (ASP), International Adoption Guides, Inc., (IAG) Ethiopia's Ministry of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs (MOWCYA), has placed a hold on the processing of adoptions by families working with this ASP pending its investigation. On March 31, MOWCYA agreed to allow these families to move forward with the assistance of a MOWCYA approved U.S. ASP that is licensed to operate in Ethiopia.

On March 31, the Office of Children's Issues sent a notice via email to all U.S. adoption service providers requesting expression of interest to pass to MOWCYA for their consideration for approval to take on IAG clients. The Minister of Women, Children, and Youth Affairs provided her response via official letter on April 7.

America World Adoption Associates and International Adoption Net have been selected by the Minister to be approved to take on former IAG clients that are in the following four stages of the adoption process:

1. Families that submitted a dossier to IAG but had not received a referral
2. Families that had received a referral through IAG
3. Families in the PAIR process with referrals from IAG
4. Families in the pre-PAIR process with adoptions facilitated by IAG that are currently in the U.S. immigration process.

Additionally, the Minister indicated families in the post-adoption process must work with either of the two approved U.S. adoption service providers to submit the required post-adoption reports.

Questions regarding this information can be directed to Office of Children's Issues at IAGadoptioncases@state.gov.