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## Haiti

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### Notice: Haiti deposits its instrument of ratification for the Hague Adoption Convention

The *Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption* (the Convention) will enter into force for Haiti on April 1, 2014. Haiti's adoption authority, Institut du Bien-Être Social et de Recherches (IBESR), deposited its instrument of ratification with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on December 16, 2013.

The Department is also currently assessing whether consular officers will be able to verify that the requirements of the Convention and the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 will have been met with respect to individual adoption cases by the date that the Convention enters into force for Haiti. This decision includes determining if Haiti has designated a central authority and key competent authorities to undertake specific responsibilities outlined in the Convention as well as determining if those authorities have the capacity to fulfill their stated functions. The Department must also review Haiti's adoption laws, procedures, practices, and infrastructure to ensure that key Convention principles will be implemented. Those principles include consideration of subsidiarity, adoptability of the child, effective consent, determination of habitual residence, prevention of improper financial gain, and prohibition against prior contact with a child's legal guardian(s) until the appropriate time in the adoption process.

The Department of State expects to inform the public by April 1, 2014 whether the United States will be able to certify Convention adoptions from Haiti. The Department of State will provide updated information on [adoption.state.gov](#).

USCIS will continue to accept I-600A applications specifying Haiti until March 31, 2014. However, we encourage adoption service providers and prospective adoptive parents to contact IBESR prior to initiating a new adoption from Haiti. If you have questions about the status of your adoption case, please work closely with your adoption agency or facilitator.

Please refer to our website and to USCIS' website at [uscis.gov](#) for updates on the status of the U.S. adoption program from Haiti as we approach Haiti's entry into force date. If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the Office of Children's Issues via email at [Haitiadoptions@state.gov](mailto:Haitiadoptions@state.gov).