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Haiti

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Lengthy Adoption Processing Times in Port-au-Prince

The Department of State, Office of Children's Issues wishes to advise U.S. prospective adoptive parents and adoption service providers of the current delays in the processing time to complete an adoption from Haiti. The consular section at the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince has received a growing number of inquiries from the public regarding adoption cases that are still pending with the Haitian Central Authority, [L'Institut du Bien-Etre Social et de Recherche](#) (IBESR), and have not progressed to the U.S. government processing stage. Please note that we are aware of the significant delays in IBESR's case processing and are working with them on possible solutions. However, if your adoption case has not reached the immigrant visa stage, the consular section does not yet have information about your case. Furthermore, for cases that are still pending with IBESR, the consular section cannot schedule an immigrant visa interview or estimate when one can be scheduled.

If you have questions about IBESR's processing of pending adoption cases, please contact Haiti's Central Authority, IBESR, directly. Considering the outstanding number of pending transition cases, we have encouraged IBESR to make transition cases a priority and to process the pending transition cases before processing Convention adoptions. We believe it is important to expeditiously finish these cases while Haiti builds its capacity to perform Convention adoptions.

If you have questions about Form I-600 petitions, please contact the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) field office in Port-au-Prince. Please send emails directly to haiti.uscis@uscis.dhs.gov. Once USCIS receives your completed Form I-600 petition, USCIS officers will review the petition and make a determination about the child's eligibility for emigration to the United States. Please note that if USCIS has questions about your petition and/or supporting documents or requires additional information, they will contact you directly. Otherwise, USCIS will inform you once a decision has been made and adjudication of the pending Form I-600 petition is complete. Due to the high volume of adoption cases pending with USCIS, the current processing time for Form I-600 petitions in which the complete dossier has been received is approximately eight weeks. If your adoption was finalized outside of Port-au-Prince, the processing time may be longer.

If you have questions about the immigrant visa interview, please contact the consular section of the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince. Please send emails directly to PAPadoptions@state.gov. The consular section will issue a visa appointment letter with instructions to adoptive parents within 48 hours of receiving the case file from USCIS. The instructions will explain the next steps for the case, and when to travel to Port-au-Prince for the visa interview. The U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince strives to complete immigrant visa processing in adoption cases as quickly as possible, and these cases are prioritized over other types of immigrant visas and non-immigrant visas. Cases are also processed in the order in which they are received.