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Haiti

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Alert: Update on Filing Options for Form I-600 Petitions on behalf of Haitian Children

FILING OPTIONS FOR FORM I-600, PETITION TO CLASSIFY ORPHAN AS AN IMMEDIATE RELATIVE

If you are a U.S. prospective adoptive parent or adoption service provider with an eligible [U.S. transition case](#), USCIS would like to remind you about these options for filing a Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative:

- U.S. families do not have to travel to Haiti to submit their Form I-600 petition with USCIS Port-au-Prince. A representative may file the Form I-600 petition on their behalf, as long as:
 - At least one prospective adoptive parent travels to Haiti and appears at the Embassy at some point in the adoption or visa process,
 - The petition contains original signatures by the prospective adoptive parent (and spouse, if married), and
 - The petition is accompanied by any appropriate fees.
- U.S. families can also file domestically with the USCIS National Benefits Center (NBC) via the [USCIS Dallas Lockbox](#) to meet the transition timeline.

USCIS Port-au-Prince is currently accepting appointments Monday–Friday to accommodate U.S. families or their representatives who would like to file their Form I-600 petition with the USCIS office in Port-au-Prince.

We understand that *l'Institut du Bien-Etre Social et de Recherches* (IBESR) is working diligently to match as many eligible U.S. transition cases as possible by the April 1, 2016, deadline. We also understand that if an eligible U.S. transition family receives a match from IBESR close to the deadline, it may be difficult to file a Form I-600 petition with USCIS by April 1, 2016.

USCIS will accept a Form I-600 petition filed by April 29, 2016, and allow the case to proceed as a transition (non-Convention) case, provided there is evidence the family received an official match from IBESR before April 1, 2016, and their Form I-600A approval was valid at the time the Form I-600 petition is filed.

For additional information about filing options, please see the [filing instructions](#) for Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative.

IMPORTANT: USCIS will update this information if there are any changes to filing options or the transition timeline.

REMINDERS:

- To demonstrate that your case meets the criteria to proceed as a U.S. transition case, please also include evidence of the match letter made by IBESR by April 1, 2016, along with your Form I-600 petition.
- U.S. families must have a valid Form I-600A, Application for Advance Processing of an Orphan Petition, approval to file the Form I-600 petition with USCIS at the NBC or USCIS Port-au-Prince.
- Adoptive parents wanting to file their Form I-600 petition with USCIS Port-au-Prince should contact the USCIS office in Port-au-Prince to

schedule an appointment to file the Form I-600 petition in person at the Embassy.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- To schedule an appointment for you or your representative, please contact USCIS Port-au-Prince by email at USCIS.Haiti@uscis.dhs.gov or by phone at 509 2229-8600 or 509 2229 8184 (from within Haiti) or 011-509-2229-8600 or 011-509-2229 8184 (from the United States).
- U.S. families may contact the USCIS National Benefits Center by email at nbc.adoptions@uscis.dhs.gov or by phone at 877-424-8374.

NOTE:

For U.S. transition families who have filed a Form I-800A, Application for Determination of Suitability to Adopt a Child from a Convention Country, with USCIS, please notify the NBC if you receive an official match from IBESR while your Form I-800A application is **pending** adjudication. We continue to discuss with IBESR possible options to smoothly process cases for families in this scenario.