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Haiti

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Delay in Passport Processing

The Haitian government recently notified the Department of State that it is experiencing a delay in passport processing. The U.S. Government is working with Haitian authorities to mitigate the effects of this delay on pending adoption cases and wishes to clarify processing information for U.S. families who may be experiencing a delay in obtaining a Haitian passport for their adopted child.

As of September 22, 2016, the USCIS Field Office and U.S. Embassy Consular Section in Port-au-Prince will accept and adjudicate adoption dossiers for Forms I-600 and I-800, even if the child's Haitian passport is not yet available. For I-600s, USCIS will forward the approved dossiers to the Consular Section for IR3/IR4 visa processing. For I-800s, families must first complete the adoption process and obtain an Article 23 letter from *l'Institut du Bien-Etre Social et de Recherches* (IBESR). Families may then schedule their IH3/IH4 visa interview at U.S. Embassy Port-au-Prince. Following the visa interview, for both I-600s and I-800s, families should provide the child's Haitian passport to the Consular Section Adoption Unit as soon as possible for final adjudication.

At this time, the Haitian government requires all Haitian citizens to present passports when exiting the country and the Embassy requires all visa applicants to be in possession of a Haitian passport before an immigrant visa can be issued. .