Intercountry Adoption Process: Flow Chart of Key Steps

Convention Process

Each case must follow this specific order.

Determination of suitability & eligibility to adopt

PAP files Form I-800A with USCIS. NBC adjudicates.



Dossier filed with Central Authority in country of origin (COO)

ASP transmits Form I-800A approval & home study to COO.



Article 16: Referral of child

COO compiles report on child & matches child with PAP.



Preliminary determination of child's eligibility

PAP accepts match & files Form I-800 with NBC. If child appears eligible, NBC provisionally approves & transfers to DOS.



Article 5/17: Review of immigration eligibility

DOS reviews visa application & transmits letter of notification to COO.



Adoption/Custody of child

PAP completes adoption/custody in COO.



Article 23: COO certifies compliance

COO reviews & transmits letter of compliance to DOS.



Final approval & Hague Certificate and visa issued

DOS issues final approval, Hague Certificate, and visa.

Non-Convention Orphan Process

Steps outlined here may occur in a different order.

Determination of suitability & eligibility to adopt

PAP files Form I-600A with USCIS. USCIS adjudicates.



Dossier filed in country of origin (COO)

ASP may transmit Form I-600A approval & home study to COO.



Identification of child

PAP identifies or is matched with a child (generally by COO or ASP).



Adoption/custody of child

PAP completes adoption/custody in COO.



Determination of child's eligibility

- * PAP files Form I-600 for a specific child. USCIS or DOS adjudicates.
- * (USCIS makes suitability determination for "combo filing.")
- * USCIS/DOS completes Form I-604 determination in child's COO.



Visa issued to child

DOS issues visa.