



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Questions & Answers: Information for U.S. Citizens in the Process of Adopting a Child from Haiti

Introduction

On Jan. 12, 2010, Haiti experienced an earthquake of devastating proportions. This set of questions and answers provides information for United States citizens that have adopted a child or are in the process of adopting a child from Haiti prior to Jan. 12, 2010.

Questions and Answers

Q. I am in the process of adopting a child from Haiti, what can I do to bring the child to the United States?

A. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano has authorized the use of humanitarian parole for the following categories of orphans in Haiti:

Category 1 Cases

Description: Children being adopted by U.S. citizens prior to Jan. 12, 2010, who have been legally confirmed as orphans available for inter-country adoption by the Government of Haiti (GOH) through an adoption decree or custody grant to suitable U.S. citizen adoptive parents.

Required Criteria

- Evidence of availability for adoption MUST include at least one of the following:
 - Full and final Haitian adoption decree; or
 - GOH custody grant to prospective adoptive parents for emigration and adoption; or
 - Secondary evidence in place of the above.
- Evidence of suitability MUST include one of the following:
 - Approved Form I-600A, *Application for Advance Processing of an Orphan Petition*; or
 - Current FBI fingerprints and security background check; or
 - Physical custody in Haiti plus a security background check.

Please note, some of the children in this category will receive immigrant visas and others will receive humanitarian parole, depending on the completeness of the cases. Those who enter with immigrant visas will enter as aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence. Those who enter with humanitarian parole will need to have their immigration status finalized after arrival through an application for adjustment of status.

Category 2 Cases

Description: Children who have been identified by an adoption service provider or facilitator

