

The Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoptions

What is it, and why FFTA is seeking accreditation?

On April 1, 2008 the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption entered into force for the United States. This essentially means that all adoptions between the United States and other Convention Countries will be governed by the Hague rules.

So if you are wondering how this affects Forever Families Through Adoption, here is a quick Hague 101 primer.

- All adoption services providers that offer services in Convention adoption cases require accreditation. Only two entities in the United States have been designated to offer accreditation: The Council on Accreditation and the Colorado Department of Human Services.
- This accreditation lets all parties involved in the adoption process know that the agency they are working with has completed a rigorous process and has been found to be in compliance with all of the Convention principles. A few of these principles include: ensuring that all individuals the agency collaborates with have the proper licenses, that all staff members are adequately trained in all Hague and adoption related matters, and a very important principle is to guarantee the prevention of child buying.
- Once an agency receives accreditation, they can be a primary provider and will have the capability of handling all of the intercountry adoptions on their own; and they may also supervise other providers who are not accredited, but are capable of offering some of the adoption services.
- Since FFTA has an International Program in the Dominican Republic (a convention country) and places US children in convention countries such as The Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and the U.K. we have already applied for, and are currently midway through the accreditation process. We look forward to receiving our full accreditation sometime in 2009.