

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



July 17, 2007

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-28-07

**REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL**

- State Law Change
- Federal Law or Regulation Change
- Court Order
- Clarification Requested by  
One or More Counties
- Initiated by CDSS

TO: ALL CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM OFFICES  
ALL LICENSED PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES

SUBJECT: REQUIREMENTS OF THE CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS ON  
ACCREDITATION OF ADOPTION AGENCIES FOR INTERCOUNTRY  
ADOPTIONS (22 CFR PART 96, SUBPART F)

The purpose of this All County Information Notice is to bring to the attention of licensed private adoption agencies the requirements of the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. The United States Department of State has published the federal regulations implementing the Hague Convention at Title 22 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 96, 97 and 99. The federal regulations require, in addition to being properly licensed by the State, agencies providing intercountry adoption services be:

- (1) An accredited agency;
- (2) A supervised provider; or
- (3) An exempt provider, if the exempted provider's homestudy or child background study will be reviewed and approved by an accredited agency

The Federal regulations may be accessed and reviewed at the following State Department website:

[http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/convention/convention\\_462.html](http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/convention/convention_462.html)

All agencies must complete the accreditation process, including the correction of any identified deficiencies, by February 15, 2008, if they are seeking accreditation by the time the Convention enters into force for the United States. The State Department anticipates ratification to occur in late 2007. The Convention and the above federal regulations will become operative shortly thereafter. Agencies that miss the February 15, 2008 deadline may still apply to the Council on Accreditation for accreditation, but they may not be accredited by the time the Hague Convention is in force in the United States.

The Council on Accreditation is the accrediting entity for California and is responsible for the initial accreditation of adoption agencies, as well as renewal of accreditation, investigation of complaints, and enforcement of the federal regulations. For more information on accreditation, please visit the Council on Accreditation's website at: [www.coanet.org](http://www.coanet.org)

If you have applied for accreditation, please fax copies of your application (EXCLUDING ATTACHMENTS) to CDSS. Please send that documentation to Permanency Policy Bureau, Attention: Concurrent Planning Policy Unit, Fax No. (916) 657-3791.

Additionally, please be aware that Requirements for Emigrating Convention Cases (Title 22 Code of Federal Regulations Section 96.53 through 96.55) establishes requirements for adoptions in which a California child is emigrating from United States. These new requirements include background studies of the child, consents by the birth parents and placement standards.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact the Concurrent Planning Policy Unit at (916) 657-1858.

Sincerely,

***Original Document Signed By:***

**MARY L. AULT**  
Deputy Director  
Children and Family Services Division