

have the duties, responsibilities, and authorities under title II and title IV of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 [42 U.S.C. 14921 et seq., 14941 et seq.] and related implementing regulations with respect to a person offering or providing such adoption services, irrespective of whether such services are offered or provided in connection with a Convention adoption.

**(b) Effective date**

The provisions of this section shall take effect 18 months after January 14, 2013.

**(c) Transition rule**

This Act shall not apply to a person offering or providing adoption services as described in subsection (a) in the case of a prospective adoption in which—

(1) an application for advance processing of an orphan petition or petition to classify an orphan as an immediate relative for a child is filed before the date that is 180 days after January 14, 2013; or

(2) the prospective adoptive parents of a child have initiated the adoption process with the filing of an appropriate application in a foreign country sufficient such that the Secretary of State is satisfied before the date that is 180 days after January 14, 2013.

(Pub. L. 112-276, §2, Jan. 14, 2013, 126 Stat. 2466.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, referred to in subsec. (a), is Pub. L. 106-279, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 825. Title II of the Act is classified principally to this subchapter, and title IV of the Act is classified generally to subchapter IV (§14941 et seq.) of this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 14901 of this title and Tables.

This Act, referred to in subsec. (c), is Pub. L. 112-276, Jan. 14, 2013, 126 Stat. 2466, known as the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title of 2013 Amendment note set out under section 14901 of this title and Tables.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012, and not as part of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 which comprises this chapter.

DEFINITIONS

Pub. L. 112-276, §4, Jan. 14, 2013, 126 Stat. 2467, provided that: “In this Act [see Short Title of 2013 Amendment note set out under section 14901 of this title], the terms ‘accrediting entity’, ‘adoption service’, ‘Convention adoption’, and ‘person’ have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14902).”

SUBCHAPTER III—RECOGNITION OF CONVENTION ADOPTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

**§ 14931. Adoptions of children immigrating to the United States**

**(a) Legal effect of certificates issued by the Secretary of State**

**(1) Issuance of certificates by the Secretary of State**

The Secretary of State shall, with respect to each Convention adoption, issue a certificate

to the adoptive citizen parent domiciled in the United States that the adoption has been granted or, in the case of a prospective adoptive citizen parent, that legal custody of the child has been granted to the citizen parent for purposes of emigration and adoption, pursuant to the Convention and this chapter, if the Secretary of State—

(A) receives appropriate notification from the central authority of such child’s country of origin; and

(B) has verified that the requirements of the Convention and this chapter have been met with respect to the adoption.

**(2) Legal effect of certificates**

If appended to an original adoption decree, the certificate described in paragraph (1) shall be treated by Federal and State agencies, courts, and other public and private persons and entities as conclusive evidence of the facts certified therein and shall constitute the certification required by section 1154(d)(2) of title 8.

**(b) Legal effect of Convention adoption finalized in another Convention country**

A final adoption in another Convention country, certified by the Secretary of State pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or section 14932(c) of this title, shall be recognized as a final valid adoption for purposes of all Federal, State, and local laws of the United States.

**(c) Condition on finalization of Convention adoption by State court**

In the case of a child who has entered the United States from another Convention country for the purpose of adoption, an order declaring the adoption final shall not be entered unless the Secretary of State has issued the certificate provided for in subsection (a) of this section with respect to the adoption.

(Pub. L. 106-279, title III, §301, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 837.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 106-279, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 825, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 14901 of this title and Tables.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective upon entry into force for the United States of the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, pursuant to Article 46(2)(a) of the Convention, with transition rule, see section 505(a)(2), (b) of Pub. L. 106-279, set out as an Effective Dates; Transition Rule note under section 14901 of this title.

**§ 14932. Adoptions of children emigrating from the United States**

**(a) Duties of accredited agency or approved person**

In the case of a Convention adoption involving the emigration of a child residing in the United States to a foreign country, the accredited agency or approved person providing adoption services, or the prospective adoptive parent or par-

ents acting on their own behalf (if permitted by the laws of such other Convention country in which they reside and the laws of the State in which the child resides), shall do the following:

(1) Ensure that, in accordance with the Convention—

(A) a background study on the child is completed;

(B) the accredited agency or approved person—

(i) has made reasonable efforts to actively recruit and make a diligent search for prospective adoptive parents to adopt the child in the United States; and

(ii) despite such efforts, has not been able to place the child for adoption in the United States in a timely manner; and

(C) a determination is made that placement with the prospective adoptive parent or parents is in the best interests of the child.

(2) Furnish to the State court with jurisdiction over the case—

(A) documentation of the matters described in paragraph (1);

(B) a background report (home study) on the prospective adoptive parent or parents (including a criminal background check) prepared in accordance with the laws of the receiving country; and

(C) a declaration by the central authority (or other competent authority) of such other Convention country—

(i) that the child will be permitted to enter and reside permanently, or on the same basis as the adopting parent, in the receiving country; and

(ii) that the central authority (or other competent authority) of such other Convention country consents to the adoption, if such consent is necessary under the laws of such country for the adoption to become final.

(3) Furnish to the United States central authority—

(A) official copies of State court orders certifying the final adoption or grant of custody for the purpose of adoption;

(B) the information and documents described in paragraph (2), to the extent required by the United States central authority; and

(C) any other information concerning the case required by the United States central authority to perform the functions specified in subsection (c) of this section or otherwise to carry out the duties of the United States central authority under the Convention.

**(b) Conditions on State court orders**

An order declaring an adoption to be final or granting custody for the purpose of adoption in a case described in subsection (a) of this section shall not be entered unless the court—

(1) has received and verified to the extent the court may find necessary—

(A) the material described in subsection (a)(2) of this section; and

(B) satisfactory evidence that the requirements of Articles 4 and 15 through 21 of the Convention have been met; and

(2) has determined that the adoptive placement is in the best interests of the child.

**(c) Duties of the Secretary of State**

In a case described in subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary, on receipt and verification as necessary of the material and information described in subsection (a)(3) of this section, shall issue, as applicable, an official certification that the child has been adopted or a declaration that custody for purposes of adoption has been granted, in accordance with the Convention and this chapter.

**(d) Filing with registry regarding non-Convention adoptions**

Accredited agencies, approved persons, and other persons, including governmental authorities, providing adoption services in an intercountry adoption not subject to the Convention that involves the emigration of a child from the United States shall file information required by regulations jointly issued by the Attorney General and the Secretary of State for purposes of implementing section 14912(e) of this title.

(Pub. L. 106-279, title III, §303, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 839.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (c), was in the original "this Act", meaning Pub. L. 106-279, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 825, known as the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 14901 of this title and Tables.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective upon entry into force for the United States of the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, pursuant to Article 46(2)(a) of the Convention, with transition rule, see section 505(a)(2), (b) of Pub. L. 106-279, set out as an Effective Dates; Transition Rule note under section 14901 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER IV—ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

**§ 14941. Access to Convention records**

**(a) Preservation of Convention records**

**(1) In general**

Not later than 180 days after October 6, 2000, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall issue regulations that establish procedures and requirements in accordance with the Convention and this section for the preservation of Convention records.

**(2) Applicability of notice and comment rules**

Subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 553 of title 5 shall apply in the development and issuance of regulations under this section.

**(b) Access to Convention records**

**(1) Prohibition**

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary or the Attorney General may disclose a Convention record, and access to such a record may be provided in whole or in part, only if such record is maintained under the authority of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8