

SUBCHAPTER IV—ADMINISTRATION AND  
ENFORCEMENT

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE

**§ 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 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.] and disclosure of, or access to, such record is permitted or required by applicable Federal law.

**(2) Exception for administration of the Convention**

A Convention record may be disclosed, and access to such a record may be provided, in whole or in part, among the Secretary, the Attorney General, central authorities, accredited agencies, and approved persons, only to the extent necessary to administer the Convention or this chapter.

**(3) Penalties for unlawful disclosure**

Unlawful disclosure of all or part of a Convention record shall be punishable in accordance with applicable Federal law.

**(c) Access to non-Convention records**

Disclosure of, access to, and penalties for unlawful disclosure of, adoption records that are not Convention records, including records of adoption proceedings conducted in the United States, shall be governed by applicable State law.

(Pub. L. 106-279, title IV, §401, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 841.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Immigration and Nationality Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is act June 27, 1952, ch. 477, 66 Stat. 163, as amended, which is classified principally to chapter 12 (§1101 et seq.) of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1101 of Title 8 and Tables.

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), 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.

Subsec. (a) of this section effective Oct. 6, 2000, and subsecs. (b) and (c) of this 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 of Pub. L. 106-279, set out as an Effective Dates; Transition Rule note under section 14901 of this title.

**§ 14942. Documents of other Convention countries**

Documents originating in any other Convention country and related to a Convention adoption case shall require no authentication in order to be admissible in any Federal, State, or local court in the United States, unless a specific and supported claim is made that the documents are false, have been altered, or are otherwise unreliable.

(Pub. L. 106-279, title IV, §402, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 841.)

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

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.

**§ 14943. Authorization of appropriations; collection of fees**

**(a) Authorization of appropriations**

**(1) In general**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to agencies of the Federal Government implementing the Convention and the provisions of this chapter.

**(2) Availability of funds**

Amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) are authorized to remain available until expended.

**(b) Assessment of fees**

(1) The Secretary may charge a fee for new or enhanced services that will be undertaken by the Department of State to meet the requirements of this chapter with respect to intercountry adoptions under the Convention and comparable services with respect to other intercountry adoptions. Such fee shall be prescribed by regulation and shall not exceed the cost of such services.

(2) Fees collected under paragraph (1) shall be retained and deposited as an offsetting collection to any Department of State appropriation to recover the costs of providing such services. Such fees shall remain available for obligation until expended.

(Pub. L. 106-279, title IV, §403, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 841; Pub. L. 107-228, div. A, title II, §211(a), Sept. 30, 2002, 116 Stat. 1365; Pub. L. 112-276, §3(a), Jan. 14, 2013, 126 Stat. 2467.)