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Special Humanitarian Parole Program for Haitian Orphans Draws to a Close at Request of Haitian Government

WASHINGTON – The Haiti government has requested that the United States provide them with a final list of orphans being considered under the Special Humanitarian Parole Program for Haitian Orphans. As a result, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will stop accepting new requests for consideration under the special program as of April 14, 2010, and will resume regular processing of intercountry adoptions.

USCIS believes the vast majority of adoption requests for orphans who meet the criteria of the special program have already been submitted. Since January 18, USCIS has authorized parole for more than 1,000 orphans under the special program, and as of April 5, approximately 340 cases are still being considered. The unprecedented program included safeguards to ensure that each child granted parole was truly available for adoption and had been matched to a suitable U.S. citizen for adoption.

In response to the emergency situation in Haiti following the January 12 earthquake, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano authorized the use of parole for two specific and limited groups of Haitian children:

- Children who either had full and final adoptions completed by their U.S. parents before the earthquake and who were legally confirmed as eligible for intercountry adoption by the government of Haiti.
- Children who were far enough along in the adoption process that both the U.S. and Haitian governments could verify the identity and eligibility of the children for adoption, and the U.S. government could confirm the suitability of the adoptive parents.

Going forward, intercountry adoption cases involving Haitian orphans will again be processed through normal procedures. The government of Haiti has already begun accepting new documents for adoption cases and the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince has resumed regular processing.

More information about humanitarian parole and intercountry adoption is available online at www.uscis.gov/humanitarianparole and www.uscis.gov/adoptions, or by calling USCIS toll-free at (800) 375-5283.

Last updated:04/07/2010

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Special Humanitarian Parole Program for Haitian Orphan Fact Sheet

Introduction

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will stop accepting new requests for parole under the Special Humanitarian Parole Program for Haitian Orphans effective April 13, 2010, because the Haitian government has requested that the United States bring the program to a close. While USCIS believes that the vast majority of requests for special parole have already been submitted, any remaining prospective adoptive parents or adoptive parents will have until April 14, 2010, to submit a request under the special program.

Background

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the special parole policy and process as part of the overall U.S. government response to the January 12, earthquake. The policy and process was designed to address the circumstances of a specific group of vulnerable Haitian children:

- those who either had full and final adoptions completed by United States citizen parents before the earthquake or,
- who were far enough along in the adoption process that both the governments of Haiti and the United States could verify the identity and eligibility of the children for adoption, and the United States government could confirm the suitability of the adoptive parents.

To date, more than 1,000 Haitian orphans have been approved for travel to the United States to join their adoptive families under this expedited process. USCIS is in the process of considering several hundred more requests and anticipates that ultimately some 1,200 children will benefit from this program.

USCIS will process all requests for parole under the special program received at HaitianAdoptions@dhs.gov by April 14, 2010. USCIS is no longer accepting "walk-in" requests at the USCIS embassy in Port-au-Prince.

Initiating a Case

If initiating a case by sending an e-mail to the HaitianAdoptions@dhs.gov mailbox, please include in the subject line the last name of the prospective parent(s) and the name of the child to be adopted.

Please also provide the information below to help us process the case as expeditiously as possible:

- The name(s) and date(s) of birth of the adoptive parent(s);
- The name(s) and date(s) of birth of the orphaned child(ren);
- The address and contact information for the adoptive parent(s), the adoption service provider, if applicable, as well as the caregiver for the child(ren) in Haiti;
- A signed Form G-28 or privacy waiver if you wish USCIS to communicate about your humanitarian parole request with an attorney or other representative;
- A recent photo(s) of the child(ren); and,
- Documentation showing that the child was either:
 - Being adopted prior to January 12, 2010 and was legally confirmed as an orphan available for inter-country adoption by the government of Haiti through an adoption decree or custody grant to suitable U.S. citizen adoptive parents; or
 - Identified by an adoption service provider or facilitator as eligible for inter-country adoption and matched to prospective American adoptive parents prior to January 12, 2010.

Please see the Fact Sheet on the Humanitarian Parole Policy for Certain Haitian Orphans for additional details on the evidence that supports a request for parole. If you do not have all of the evidence necessary to establish eligibility for parole and are in the process of gathering that evidence, you may still submit a request to the e-mail box before the deadline, with an explanation of the evidence you are seeking to obtain. You should also, at a minimum, provide the following information:

- Full name(s) and date(s) of birth of the Haitian child(ren);
- Full name(s) and date(s) of birth of the U.S. prospective adoptive parents;
- Contact information for the prospective adoptive parent(s).

Last updated:04/07/2010

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