TABLE OF CHANGES- INSTRUCTIONS Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative 09/28/2012

Reason for Revision: To clarify language regarding combination filings and biometric services fees for those petitioners living abroad.

Location	Current Form Language	Page number and Location of Proposed Changes/Language
Page 1, Instructions	Read these instructions carefully to properly complete this form. If you need more space to complete an answer, use a separate sheet of paper. Write your name at the top of each sheet of paper and indicate the part and number of the item to which the answer refers.	[Page 1] [Deleted]
Page 1, What is the Purpose of This Form?	This form is used to classify an alien orphan, habitually resident in a non-Hague Convention country	[Page 1] What is the Purpose of This Form?This form is used to classify an orphan, who is not habitually resident in a Hague Convention country
Page 1,	1. Eligibility	1. Eligibility
Who May File This Form, I-600?	A. Child	A. Child
	Under U.S. immigration law, an orphan is an alien child who has no parents because of the death	Under U.S. immigration law, an orphan is a child who has no parents because of the death
	A petition to classify an alien as an orphan may not be filed on behalf of a child in the United States, unless that child is in parole status and has not been adopted in the United States	A Form I-600 may not be filed on behalf of a child who is already in the United States unless that child is in parole status and has not been adopted in the United States
Page 2-3,	2. Filing Petition for Known Child	2. Filing Petition for Known Child
Who May File This Form,	An orphan petition for a child who has been identified must be submitted on a completed Form I-600 with the certification of the petitioner executed and required fee. If the petitioner is married, Form I-600 must also be signed by the petitioner's spouse.	To petition for a child who has been identified, you must submit a completed Form I-600 signed by the petitioner and accompanied by the required fee, if any. If the petitioner is married, Form I-600 must also be signed by the petitioner's spouse.
	The petition must be accompanied by the following	If you previously submitted items A., B., and H. listed below with your Form I-600A application, you do not need to do so again when filing Form I-600 unless requested by the USCIS office processing your Form I-

A. Proof of citizenship of the petitioner...

- **5.** An unexpired **U.S. passport**, initially issued for 10 years, may also be submitted as proof of U.S. citizenship....
- **c.** An unexpired U.S. passport initially issued for 10 years; or...

C. Proof of age of orphan

The petitioner should submit a copy of the orphan's birth certificate if obtainable; if not obtainable, submit an explanation together with the best available evidence of birth...

[Page 3]

- F. Evidence that the child is an "orphan" as defined in section 101(b)(1)(F) and 8 CFR 204.3 (b)...
- **3.** If the child does not qualify as the child of a sole or surviving parent, submit evidence that the child is an orphan because the child as no parent as a result of abandonment, loss, desertion, disappearance, or separation...

H. Home study...

The home study must be prepared by an entity (individual or organization) licensed or otherwise authorized under the law of the State of the orphan's proposed residence to conduct, research, and prepare a home study, including the required personal interviews. The home study submitted must have original signature(s)...

600. Noting the above, the petition must be accompanied by the following...

A. Proof of citizenship of the petitioner...

- **5.** An unexpired U.S. passport, issued for 10 years, may also be submitted as proof of U.S. citizenship...
- **c.** An unexpired U.S. passport issued for 10 years; or...

C. Proof of age of orphan

The petitioner should submit a copy of the orphan's birth certificate if obtainable; if not obtainable, submit an explanation of why the document cannot be obtained together with the best available evidence of birth...

[Page 3]

- F. Evidence that the child is an "orphan" as defined in INA section 101(b)(1)(F) and 8 CFR 204.3 (b)...
- 3. If the child does not qualify as an orphan because he or she is the child of a sole or surviving parent who has released the child for emigration and adoption, submit evidence that the child is an orphan because the child has no parents as a result of abandonment, loss, desertion, disappearance, separation or death...

H. Home study...

The home study must be prepared by an entity (individual or organization) licensed or otherwise authorized under the law of the State of the orphan's proposed residence, to conduct, research, and prepare a home study, including the required personal interviews. If the petitioner resides abroad, the home study can also be prepared by an entity authorized by the adoption authorities of the foreign country. The home study submitted must have original signature(s)...

[Page 4] **Translations** [Moved to General Instructions section Any document containing a foreign belowl language submitted to USCIS must be accompanied by a full English language translation, which the translator has certified as complete and accurate, and by the translator's certification that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English. Copies **IMoved to General Instructions section** Unless specifically required that an original belowl document be filed with an application or petition, an ordinary legible photocopy may be submitted. Original documents submitted when not required will remain a part of the record, even if the submission was not required. Page 4, How To Fill Out Form I-600 [New sub-General heading] Instructions 1. Type or print legibly in black ink. 1. Type or print legibly in black ink. 2. If extra space is needed to complete any 2. If extra space is needed to complete any item, attach a continuation sheet, indicate item, attach a continuation sheet, indicate the item number, and date and sign each the item number, and date and sign each sheet. sheet. 3. Answer all questions fully and accurately. If an item is not applicable, write "N/A." If the answer is "none," write "None". 4. Each Form I-600 must be properly signed and filed. Each Form I-600 must have original signatures from the petitioner and the petitioner's spouse, if any. A photocopy of a signed petition or a typewritten name in place of a signature is not acceptable. **Copies** Unless specifically required that an original document be filed with an application or petition, a legible photocopy may be submitted. Original documents submitted when not required may remain a part of the record, and will not be automatically returned to you. Translations_ Any document containing a foreign language submitted to USCIS must be accompanied by a full English language

Page 4,		translation, which the translator has certified as complete and accurate, and by the translator's certification that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English. Biometrics Services [Separate section that was incorporated into "General Instructions"] Filling Out Form I-600A/Form I-600, Supplement 1, Listing of Adult Member of the Household If there are any additional adult members residing in your household other than you and your spouse (if married), Form I-600A/Form I-600, Supplement 1, Listing of Adult Members of the Household, must be completed for each of the adult members of your household. For purposes of this supplement, the definition of an adult member of the household is any individual who is over the age of 18 on or before the date the Form I-600A or Form I-600 is filed and whose principal or only residence is the home of the prospective adoptive parents. NOTE: USCIS reserves the right to request information on any household member who has not yet reached his or her 18th birthday before the date when a Form I-600A or Form I-600 is filed, or who does not actually live at the same residence, but whose presence in the residence is relevant to the issue of your (and your spouse's, if married) suitability to adopt.
Where to File?	A petitioner wishing to file form I-600 within the United States must file Form I-600 at the USCIS Dallas Lockbox facility. Form I-600 will then be routed to, and adjudicated at, the National Benefits Center. *** E-Notification: If you are filing your Form I-600 at the USCIS Dallas Lockbox facilityclick on the link www.uscis.gov "Forms."	Please see our Web site at www.uscis.gov/l-600 or call the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 for the most current information about where to file this benefit request. For TDD (hearing impaired) call: 1-800-767-1833 .
Page 5, Biometric Services	Petitioners Residing Abroad	[Page 4] [Incorporated into "General Instructions"] 2. Petitioners Residing Abroad

NOTE: If you, your spouse, and any adult member of the household reside outside of the United States at the time of filing, you are exempt from paying the USCIS biometrics service fee for fingerprinting. However, you may have to pay fingerprinting fees charged by the U.S. Department of State or U.S. military installation abroad.

NOTE: If you, your spouse, and any adult member of the household reside outside of the United States, you are exempt from paying the USCIS biometrics services fee for fingerprinting at this time if fingerprinted abroad. However, you may have to pay fingerprinting fees charged by the U.S. Department of State or U.S. military installation abroad.

Page 5-6 What is the Filing Fee?

A fee of \$720 must be submitted for filing Form I-600. However, a fee is not required for this petition if you filed an advance processing application (Form I-600A), and it was approved (or an extension approved) within the previous 18 months, or is still pending, and this is the first Form I-600 filed based on that Form I-600A.

NOTE: To ensure proper filing of your petition, you must enclose a separate check or money order for each petition requiring filing and/or biometrics fees. Each check or money order must also include the biometrics fee for each prospective adoptive parent and adult household member requiring fingerprinting.

Additional biometric fee of \$85 for fingerprinting every adult person living in the household in the United States where the child will reside must also be submitted.

For example, if a petition is filed by a married couple residing in the United States with one additional adult member in their household, the total fee that must be submitted would be \$975 (\$720 for the petition and \$255 for biometrics services for fingerprinting the three adults.)

NOTE: If the prospective adoptive parents and any other adult members of the household abroad at the time of filing, they are exempt from paying the USCIS biometrics service fee. However, they may have to pay the fingerprinting fee charged by the U.S. consular office or U.S. military installation abroad.

When more than one petition is submitted by the same petitioner on behalf of orphans who are siblings, only one fee for Form I- [Page 4 -Section moved between "General Instructions" and "Where To File?".]

The filing fee for Form I-600 is \$720.

NOTE: No fee is required for this petition if you filed Form I-600A, Application for Advanced Processing of Orphan Petition, and it was approved (or an extension approved) within the previous 18 months, or is still pending, and this is the first Form I-600 filed based on that Form I-600A.

An additional biometrics services fee of \$85 is required when filing Form I-600 for fingerprinting every adult person, age 18 or older, living in the household in the United States where the child will reside.

NOTE: Individuals who require fingerprinting and who reside outside of the United States are exempt from USCIS biometrics services fees if fingerprinted abroad. However, each adult member of the household MUST be fingerprinted even if they may be exempt from paying certain biometrics services fees. (Please note that the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. military may charge fingerprinting fees.)

To ensure proper filing of your petition, you must enclose a separate check or money order for each petition requiring filing and/or biometrics services fees. For example, if a petition is filed by a married couple residing in the United States with one additional adult member in their household, the total fees that must be submitted would be \$720 for the Form I-600 petition and a separate check for \$255 (\$85 X 3 adult household members) for fingerprinting, for each adult living in the household.

When more than one petition is submitted by the same petitioner on behalf of orphans 600 and biometric services is required, unless re-fingerprinting is ordered. If the orphans are not siblings, a separate filing fee must be submitted for each additional Form I-600.

The fee will not be refunded whether the petition is approved or not. **Do not mail cash**. All checks or money orders, whether U.S. or foreign, must be payable in U.S. currency at a financial institution in the United States. When a check is drawn on the account of a person other than yourself, write your name on the face of the check. If the check is not honored, USCIS will charge you \$30.

Pay by check or money order in the exact amount. Make the check or money order payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, unless:

- 1. If you live in Guam, make it payable to **Treasurer, Guam**.
- 2. If you live in the U.S. Virgin Islands, make it payable to **Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands**.

NOTE: Spell out U.S. Department of Homeland Security; do not use the initials "USDHS" or "DHS."

who are siblings, the Form I-600 filing fee and biometrics services fees are only required once, unless re-fingerprinting is ordered. If the orphans are not siblings, a separate filing fee must be submitted for each additional Form I-600 petition.

If your petition is accepted, USCIS will not refund the fee, regardless of the action taken on the petition. *Do not mail cash. All fees must be submitted in the exact amounts.*

Use the following guidelines when you prepare your check or money order for the Form I-600 and biometrics services fees:

- 1. The check or money order must be drawn on a bank or other financial institution located in the United States and must be payable in U.S. currency; and
- 2. Make the check or money order payable to U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

[Deleted]

[Deleted]

NOTE: Spell out U.S. Department of Homeland Security; do not use the initials "USDHS" or "DHS."

3. If you live outside the United States, Guam, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate for instructions on the method of payment.

Notice to Those Making Payment by Check.

If you send us a check, it will be converted into an electronic funds transfer (EFT). This means we will copy your check and use the account information on it to electronically debit your account for the amount of the check. The debit from your account will usually take 24 hours and will be shown on your regular account statement.

You will not receive your original check

		back. We will destroy your original check, but we will keep a copy of it. If the EFT cannot be processed for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy in place of your original check. If the EFT cannot be completed because of insufficient funds, we may try to make the transfer up to two times.
	How to Check If the Fees Are Correct	How to Check If the Fees Are Correct
	Form I-600 and biometrics fees are current as of the edition date in the lower right corner of this page	Form I-600 and biometrics services fees are current as of the edition date in the lower right corner of this page
	1. Visit our Web site at www.uscis.gov , select "FORMS," and check the appropriate fee;	1. Visit the USCIS Web site at www.uscis.gov, select "FORMS," and check the appropriate fee; or
	2. Review the Fee Schedule included in	[Deleted]
	your form package, if you called us to request the form; or 3. Telephone our National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 and ask for fee information	2. Telephone the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283 and ask for fee information. For TDD (hearing impaired) call: 1-800-767-1833
	Tot tee information	NOTE: If your Formobtain the correct biometrics services fee.
New section		[Page 5]
		Address Change
		If you have changed your address, you must inform USCIS of your new address. You must submit your change of address to the office with jurisdiction over your case. If you filed with the USCIS Lockbox, the National Benefits Center (NBC) has jurisdiction over your case. If you filed at an overseas office, you will need to submit your change of address to that office. Due to your change in residence, you may also be required to submit an amended home study for a "significant change."
		Please visit the USCIS Web site at www.uscis.gov and select "Adoption" for information on significant changes due to a change in residence.
		NOTE: Do not submit a change of address request to the USCIS Lockbox facilities because the USCIS Lockbox facilities do not process change of address requests.

Page 6,
Processing
Information

Submitting Advance Processing Application for Orphan Child Not Yet Identified

A prospective petitioner may request advance processing when the child has not been identified or when the prospective petitioner or spouse are going abroad to locate or adopt a child.

If unmarried, the prospective petitioner must be at least 24 years of age at the time of filing Form I-600A, Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition, and must be at least 25 years of age at the time of filing Form I-600 on behalf of a child....

Child(ren) Located or Identified

A separate Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative, must be filed for each child.

If a prospective petitioner goes abroad to adopt or locate a child, he or she may file Form I-600 at the USCIS office having jurisdiction over the place where the child resides, if there is a USCIS office located in that country. **NOTE**: In order to File Form I-600 abroad, the petitioner must have an approved and valid Form I-600A and be physically present in the child's country at the time of filing.

For a list of USCIS overseas offices, see our Web site at www.uscis.gov.

If a prospective petitioner goes abroad to any country where there is no USCIS office, he or she may file Form I-600 at the U.S. Embassy or consulate having jurisdiction over the place where the child resides.

NOTE: In order to File Form I-600 abroad, the petitioner must have an approved and valid Form I-600A and be physically present in the child's country at the time of filing.

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Submitting Advance Processing Application for Orphan Child Not Yet Identified

A prospective petitioner may request advance processing using Form I-600A, Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition, when the child has not been identified or when the prospective petitioner or spouse are going abroad to locate or adopt a child.

If unmarried, the prospective petitioner must be at least 24 years of age at the time of filing Form I-600A and must be at least 25 years of age at the time of filing Form I-600 on behalf of a child.....

[Deleted- Information will be posted to the USCIS Filing Information Web page for this form.]

[Page 6] Certification

The "Certification of Petitioner" block of

	Any Form I-600 that is not signed or accompanied by the correct fee will be rejected with a notice that Form I-600 is deficient. You may correct the deficiency and resubmit Form I-600. Form I-600 is not considered properly filed until accepted by USCIS	Form I-600 must be executed by the prospective adoptive parent. The spouse, if applicable, must execute the "Certification of Married Prospective Petitioner's Spouse" block on the form. Failure to do so will result in rejection of Form I-600. Any Form I-600 that is not signed or accompanied by the correct fee will be rejected with a notice that Form I-600 is deficient. You may correct the deficiency and resubmit Form I-600. Form I-600 is not considered properly filed until accepted by USCIS
	Requests for More Information or Interview	Requests for More Information or Interview
	We may request more information or evidence, or we may request that you appear at a USCIS office for an interview. We may also request that you submit the originals of any copy. We will return these originals when they are no longer required	We may request more information or evidence, or we may request that you appear at a USCIS office for an interview. We may also request that you submit the original of any copy. Once USCIS completes the adjudication of your application or petition, you may request the return of your original documents by filing a Form G-884, Request for the Return of Original Documents
Page 6, Accommodations		[Page 6]
for Individuals With Disabilities and Impairments	USCIS is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities and impairments.	USCIS is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities and impairments that will help them fully participate in USCIS programs and benefits.
	Accommodations vary with the disability and/or impairment and involve modifications to practices or procedures. For example, if you are:	Reasonable accommodations vary with each disability or impairment. They may involve modifications to practices or procedures. There are various types of reasonable accommodations that may be offered. Examples include:
	1. Unable to use your hands, you may be permitted to take a test orally rather than in writing;	1. If you are unable to use your hands, you may be permitted to take the test orally rather than in writing;
	2. Hearing-impaired, you may be provided with a sign-language interpreter for a USCIS-sponsored training session; or	2. If you are hearing-impaired, you may be provided with a sign-language interpreter at an interview or other application or petition related appointment; or
	3. Unable to travel to a designated USCIS location for an interview, you may be	3. For those unable to travel to a designated USCIS location for an interview, you may

visited at your home or a hospital. be visited at your home or a hospital. If you believe that you, your spouse, and/or If you believe that you need USCIS to your household member need us to accommodate your disability and/or accommodate a disability and/or impairment, check the appropriate boxes in impairment, check "Yes" in Block III, Block III that describe the nature of your Number 30 of Form I-600, then check any disability(ies) and/or impairment(s). Also, applicable box that describes the nature of write the type(s) of accommodation(s) you your disability(ies) and/or impairment(s). are requesting on the line(s) provided. If Also, write the type(s) of accommodation(s) you are requesting a sign-language you are requesting on the line(s) provided. interpreter, be sure to indicate for which If you are requesting a sign-language language. interpreter, be sure to indicate which language. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper. NOTE: All domestic USCIS facilities meet the Accessibility Guidelines of the **NOTE:** All domestic USCIS facilities meet Americans with Disabilities Act, so you do the Accessibility Guidelines of the not need to contact USCIS to request an Americans with Disabilities Act, so you do accommodation for physical access to a not need to contact us to request an domestic USCIS office. However, in Block accommodation for physical access to a III of the form, you can indicate whether domestic USCIS office. you use a wheelchair. This will allow USCIS to better prepare for your visit and have a wheelchair accessible interview room available for you once you enter the facility. USCIS considers requests for accommodations on a case-by-case basis. USCIS considers requests for reasonable Asking for an accommodation will not accommodations on a case-by-case basis affect your eligibility for the benefit. and will use its best efforts to reasonably accommodate all applicants with disabilities or impairments. Qualified individuals will not be excluded from the participation in, or be denied the benefits of, USCIS's programs solely on the basis of their disability(ies) or impairment(s). Requesting and/or receiving an accommodation will not affect your eligibility for a USCIS benefit. [Page 6] New **USCIS Forms and Information** You can get USCIS forms and immigrationrelated information on the USCIS Web site at www.uscis.gov. You may order USCIS forms by calling our toll-free number at 1-**800-870-3676**. You may also obtain forms and information by telephoning the USCIS National Customer Service Center at 1-800-375-5283. For TDD (hearing impaired) call: 1-800-767-1833. As an alternative to waiting in line for assistance at your local USCIS office, you

can now schedule an appointment through

		the USCIS Internet-based system, InfoPass . To access the system, visit the USCIS Web site. Use the InfoPass appointment scheduler and follow the screen prompts to set up your appointment. InfoPass generates an electronic appointment notice that appears on the screen.
Page 7, Privacy Act Notice		Page 7 USCIS Privacy Act Statement
	We ask for the information on this form, and associated evidence, to determine if you have established eligibility for the immigration benefit for which you are filing. Our legal right to ask for this information can be found in the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended. We may provide this information to other government agencies. Failure to provide this information, and any requested	Authority: 8 CFR 204.3 authorizes USCIS to collect the information and the associated evidence requested on this form. Purpose: The primary purpose for providing the requested information on this form is to classify an alien orphan who does not reside in a Hague Adoption Convention country, and either is, or will be, adopted by a U.S. citizen, as an immediate relative of
	evidence, may delay a final decision or result in denial of your Form I-600.	the U.S. citizen to allow the child to enter the United States. Disclosure: The information you provide is voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information, and any requested evidence, may delay a final decision or result in denial of your form.
		Routine uses: The information you provide on this form may be shared with other federal, state, local, and foreign government agencies and authorized organizations following approved routine uses described in the associated published system of records notices [DHS/USCIS-005 - Inter-Country Adoptions Security and DHS-USCIS-001 – Alien File, Index, and National File Tracking System of Records, which can be found at www.dhs.gov/privacy]. The information may also be made available, as appropriate, for law enforcement purposes or in the interest of national security.
		Notice to Household Members: You are not the "petitioner" who is filing Form I-600. As a member of the petitioner's household, however, information about you may be relevant to the adjudication of the petitioner's Form I-600. Under 8 CFR Part 103.2(b)(16), the petitioner is entitled to review any information that may be used as evidence supporting a denial of Form I-600.

		By signing the Form I-600 A/Form I-600, Supplement 1, Listing of Adult Member of the Household, you are providing your consent to permit USCIS to disclose to the petitioner and adoption service provider, if applicable, information that USCIS may obtain about you that is relevant to the adjudication of the petitioner's Form I-600, even if the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a might otherwise prevent disclosure of the information to the petitioner.
		Privacy Act Waiver: Apart from the routine uses and information related to adult members of the prospective adoptive parent's household noted above, USCIS may not disclose or give access to any information or record relating to any petitioner, spouse, (if applicable), or adult member of the household who has filed Form I-600 to any individual or entity other than that person, including but not limited to an accredited agency, temporarily accredited agency, approved person, exempted provider, supervised provider, or other adoption service provider, unless written consent is given, as provided by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. 552a.
Page 7, Paperwork Reduction Act	An agency may not conduct or sponsor Regulatory Products Division, Office of the Executive Secretariat, 20 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20529- 2020. OMB No. 1615-0028; Expires 01/31/13. Do not mail your application to this address.	Page 7 An agency may not conduct or sponsor Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, 20 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20529-2020. OMB No. 1615-0028. Do not mail your completed Form I-600 to this address.