CTV Vancouver.

An Abbotsford, B.C. couple that has been waiting nearly two years to bring their newly adopted son home from Africa has learned that the Canadian government is not prepared to grant the child citizenship.

Kim and Clark Moran received a letter this week from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada informing them that the federal department has concerns about two-year-old Ayo, whom the couple claims they adopted from an orphanage in Nigeria and gained custody of in August.

"Honestly, it feels like we're living our worst nightmare right now," Kim told CTV News Friday. "The fact that we are being accused right now of an unethical adoption is crazy.".

CTV News has learned that a third party has come forward with an allegation that Ayo's adoption came from a private residence and not an orphanage.

"It does say that in the letter," Kim confirmed, adding that "I have no idea where that information came from because both Clark and I were there in the office with all of the workers from the orphanage.".

Kim would not share a copy of the letter with CTV.

In a statement, IRCC did not reveal any details regarding the Ayo's paperwork, but said "the Government of Canada has obligations under international conventions to ensure children are not abducted, bought or sold, or removed from their biological families without legal consent.".

The department added that "in some cases, extra steps in the citizenship or immigration process may be needed to make sure the adoption meets all requirements of international adoption.".

The Morans' story first made headlines in October, some three months after they first travelled to Africa to finalize the adoption.

According to Kim, the Canadian high commission in Nigeria doesn't have an immigration office, so all adoptions out of that country have to be processed in Ghana.

Thinking that the immigration papers that would allow them to bring Ayo back to B.C. wouldn't take more than a few weeks to be finalized, Clark headed back to Canada while [Kim] and their [son] remained in Accra.

It would be months, however, before the family got an update.

Kim was forced to switch places with Clark late last month after her multiple sclerosis flared up.

He is now in Ghana with Ayo and she is back in B.C., but it's unclear what the family's future will look like.

"If Canada doesn't grant him citizenship, what happens? They send him back to Nigeria to an orphanage? They take him from us even though he's legally our son?" Kim said.

IRCC has told CTV that under ideal circumstances, the two-step adoption and immigration process can take between six and eight months, but that timeframe can be as long as two years depending on the child's country of origin and other factors.

The Morans' paperwork was received in February 2017. A year and 10 months later, the family's adoption process is at the top end of the government's estimated timeline, but has not exceeded it.

The Morans have 60 days to respond to the letter, and the IRCC stressed Friday that a final decision on Ayo's citizenship application has not yet been made.

Kim said the family is working with an immigration lawyer as well as the adoption agency, whose name she would not reveal, as they weigh their options.

"We're not giving up, but it feels really overwhelming to think about what this means and what they're trying to do to us right now," she said.

"I can't believe that this is our life, that this is our story.".

With files from CTV Vancouver's Ben Miljure

**Key:**

Indentation: a new paragraph

Yellow: should be part of a coreference chain but missing from the coreferee output

Pink: wrong coreference cluster

**Mark up the text and the coreference chains it found:**

**doc1.\_.coref\_chains.print()**

0: couple(9), couple(76)

1: years(16), their(19) ( “years” should not be in a coref chain; “their” should refer to “Kim and Clark’s”)

2: letter(48), them(59), they(78) ( “letter” should not be in a coref chain; “them” and “they” should refer to “Kim and Clark”)

3: Ayo(72), Ayo(150)

4: custody(87), it(96)

5: News(112), News(136) (+ “CTV” and “CTV News”)

6: fact(117), It(165)

7: orphanage(161), orphanage(206)

8: letter(171), letter(219)

9: Kim(174), Kim(211)

10: children(254), their(266)

11: adoption(300), adoption(333)

12: headlines(317), they(325) ( “headlines” should not be in a coref chain; “they” (325) should refer to “Kim and Clark”)

13: Kim(338), Kim(401), Kim(425), her(437), she(452)

14: Nigeria(345), country(359)

15: papers(372), them(376) ( “papers” should not be in a coref chain; “them” (376) should refer to “Kim and Clark”)

16: Clark(395), Clark(432), He(444), him(478), him(486), him(496), he(501) (478, 486, 496, 501 should refer to “Ayo”, not “Clark”)

17: [Kim(401); son(404)], their(403) ( “their” (403) should refer to “Kim and Clark”)

18: Canada(474), They(484)

19: Nigeria(489), They(494) ( “They” (494) should refer to “Canada” (474), not “Nigeria” (489) )

20: Morans(561), Morans(602)

21: family(578), family(636), they(658), their(660), they(684) 🡺 0, 20, [Kim and Clark] ( “they” (684) should refer to “Canada/IRCC”, not “the Morans”)

22: government(589), it(598) ( “it” (598) should refer to “(government's estimated) timeline”, not “government” (589) )

23: Kim(633), she(652), she(695) **🡺 13**

24: agency(648), it(672) ( “(adoption) agency” should not be in a coref chain) (“it” (672) is a dummy it?)