

**From:** Cheryl Jones-Das [mailto:Cheryl\_Jones\_Das@LCFS.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 28, 2007 8:29 PM  
**To:** OSComments  
**Subject:** CIS adoption-related fee increases

Dear Director, Management Systems, USCIS:

My husband and I are adoptive parents of two children adopted internationally. We are writing to express our concern about the US Citizenship and Immigration Services proposed fee increases for adoption-related petitions - Docket Number USCIS-2006-0044.

International adoption has become so expensive. Many of the people we know already have trouble affording to adopt a child from overseas. My husband and I had to borrow money in order to adopt our two daughters. There are few infants and toddlers in the United States that are both healthy and available for adoption. Couples who desperately want children and can not have them biologically are having difficulty in financing an international adoption.

The fees associated with CIS are already expensive. In addition, some families must re-file and re-pay the fees because the I600A application expires within 18 months and many countries are not able to process the adoption before the I600A application expires. Also, many families must be re-fingerprinted because their fingerprint clearances expire in 15 months and their adoption has not been completed in that time frame. Finally, in Illinois we have to pay for fingerprinting for state clearances, and again for FBI clearances and the again for CIS FBI clearances! It is crazy that we must be fingerprinted three times and pay each time! There is no reason that we should need to pay for two sets of FBI fingerprints!

CIS is now proposing fee increases that average over 60% more! This poses a hardship on adoptive families, all of whom are US citizens and already support USCIS through our taxes. If this increase is approved, CIS should provide us with better service including making an exception for adoptive parents, so that our fingerprints and the I600A petition would not expire for 24 months.

CIS is also asking for a fee increase for the N600 application for a certificate of citizenship that is over 12 times the current fee! Since CIS has already scrutinized the child's documents from the foreign country and granted the child a permanent resident visa and the children are automatically granted US citizenship upon the adoption here becoming final, the proposed fee increase to simply obtain the certificate of citizenship seems very high indeed! We had to apply for a certificate of citizenship for our daughter because we obtained guardianship of her in India and then adopted her here in the US. India does not allow Americans to adopt in India, so we had no choice but to adopt her here and then apply for a certificate of citizenship. We do not think it is fair that you penalize families like us by charging such a high fee when you automatically send other adoptive parents their children's certificates of citizenship after their adoption is final in the foreign country. While we do support your automatically mailing these families certificates of citizenship at no extra charge, you should not be charging families like ours the high fee you already charge us much less making it even higher! We, like them, have already paid CIS fees in association with our children's visas.

Please do not make adoptive parents' dreams of having a child so expensive that we can not afford it. Do not increase the adoption-related fees.

Cherie Jones Das and B. David Das