
From: Alicia Bird [mailto:thebirds@salmoninternet.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 06, 2007 7:06 PM
To: OSComments
Subject: Incompetent USCIS

To the USCIS:

In December my family drove 5 hours on snowpacked roads to Boise, Idaho in order to file an I-600a for an adoption. We gave them our homestudy and four of us were fingerprinted at the same time. Because the little girl we are adopting is waiting with special needs for medical attention, I asked the senators office to try and expedite our paperwork, knowing that it is taking up to 3 months for the I-171H to come in the mail. It was a good thing I did, because the senators office was told that the USCIS hadn't processed our paperwork because they were still waiting for our homestudy. I would have never been able to find out this information for myself because the USCIS office in Boise refuses to give out a phone number or an e-mail address. (I was in there last week and practically begged on my hands and knees for a phone number to the office - they refused. I asked for an e-mail address - they said they'd get back to me. They haven't.) I had to fax a copy of the paperwork they lost to the Senator, and then he faxed it on to the USCIS office. When our I-171H finally came, my name was spelled wrong and I had to go back - 5 hours again on snowpacked roads, to ask for an amendment. At the same time my form came, I also received an I-171H for a woman who was trying to adopt two children from Haiti. They had put my address on her form, consequently slowing down the adoption process for her. It has all been very irritating, to say the least.

From what I've heard from others who have adopted, the service hasn't improved one bit since the last time you increased fees. I don't see how increasing fees is going to help the USCIS not lose my paperwork or lessen the waiting time. I don't see how giving more money to incompetent people is going to make them less incompetent.

Waiting 6 weeks to 3 months for an I-600a is so ridiculous, and so very sad for the children who wait, sometimes not making it to their adoption day because of the medical problems they have. I would love to see the time shortened, but I don't see how more money is going to make people who don't care in the first place work any more efficiently. I don't want to give more money to people who are so un-helpful and inefficient.

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