

**From:** Annette McBride [mailto:amcbride@suite224.net]

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**To:** OSComments

**Subject:** [Docket No: USCIS-2006-0044];[FR Doc: E7-01631];[Page 4887-4915]; Immigration: Benefit application fee schedule adjustment

To Whom It May Concern:

As U.S. citizens and prospective parents of an orphan from China, we are writing regarding current USCIS regulations that affect the process and cost of China adoption.

As part of the extensive adoption process, we are required to obtain USCIS approval (form I-171H/I-797C). According to current USCIS regulations, this approval is valid for 18 months. However, due to the lengthy wait to be matched with a child from China, it is a certainty that every family who has a dossier in China will experience the expiration of their (1) fingerprints (valid for 15 months) and (2) I-171H/I-797C approval (valid for 18 months). The cost to adoptive families of filing a new I-600A (Advance Petition to Adopt an Orphan) will be very high, both emotionally and financially. The cost to USCIS offices of processing new I-600As will be also be very high, in terms of time and resources.

We urge you to support the following recommendations:

- 1) Effective immediately, increase the valid period for all newly issued I-171H/I-797C from 18 to 24 months
- 2) Effective immediately, allow all families holding a valid I-171H/I-797C to file and be approved for an extension to 24 months within 30 days after submitting the following documents:
  - a. A copy of their current I-171H/I-797C and valid fingerprints
  - b. A Home Study update to ensure that families still qualify to adopt from China
- 3) Do not increase USCIS adoption-related fees

This is important because the burden of paying for and submitting a new I-600A for a file that is already approved seems to be a frivolous and poor use of USCIS resources. The cost to families is up to \$2,000 and it seems that USCIS offices already face heavy caseloads.

Please say no to proposed USCIS cost increases and yes to extending the term for I-171 validity to 24 months.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Robert & Annette McBride  
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