
From: Nora Searing [mailto:nsearing@lcsnw.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2007 3:37 PM
To: OSComments
Subject: Comments -- USCIS Proposed Fee Increases for Adoption

(I sent this comment a few minutes ago but forgot to list the Docket Number. Therefore, I'm sending it again. Thank you.)

Regarding: Proposed Fee Increases for Adoption-Related Petitions
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Docket Number USCIS-2006-0044
Public comment period 2/1/07 through 4/2/07

Comments:

I am an adoption social worker employed by a licensed child-placing agency in Washington State, and I have assisted families with international adoptions for the past 15 years. While I understand the need to update and improve USCIS's ability to provide timely, accurate service in processing adoption petitions, and the associated budgetary concerns, I find the proposed new fee schedule excessively burdensome to adoptive families. The cost of international adoption is already edging beyond what many American families can afford. Dramatically higher USCIS fees will have the effect of discouraging many American families from responding compassionately to the needs of orphans in other countries. The result will be a loss for thousands of orphaned children and the American families who wanted to reach out to them through adoption. Therefore, I urge the USCIS to consider implementing lower, more reasonable fee increases than those currently proposed. Thank you for your consideration of this comment.

Sincerely,
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