

**From:** Cheryl Jones-Das [mailto:Cheryl\_Jones\_Das@LCFS.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 30, 2007 12:59 PM  
**To:** OSComments  
**Cc:** La Nell Hill  
**Subject:** USCIS fee increases Docket number USCIS-2006-0044

To: The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Re: Fee Increases Docket number USCIS-2006-0044

Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois is very concerned about the proposed fee increase in adoption-related petitions.

International adoption has become so expensive that many families in the United States can not afford to adopt a child from overseas. Because there are few healthy infants and toddlers available for adoption in the United States, this means that 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 and pay this fee again because their fingerprint clearances expire in 15 months and their adoption has not been completed in that time frame.

CIS is now proposing an I600A application fee increase that is more than 20% over the current fee! This poses a hardship on adoptive families and may result in fewer orphans who need homes being placed. If this increase is approved, I would hope that CIS would also make an exception for adoptive parents, at least one of whom must be a US citizen, so that their fingerprints and the I600A petition would not expire for 24 months. This at least would help families who currently must be re-fingerprinted (currently at \$70.00 per person and proposed to be \$80.00 per person) and who must re-file the I600A petition.

CIS is also asking for a fee increase for the N600 application for a certificate of citizenship to \$460.00. This 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!

Finally, after the local CIS office has already approved an I600A petition, to charge \$150.00 more than they already charge to simply re-call the approval to a different foreign Embassy also seems to be an unwarrantedly high increase.

Adoptive families are already US citizens. They already support USCIS through their taxes. Please do not make their dreams of having a child so expensive that they can not afford it.

Cherie Jones Das, International Adoptions Coordinator  
Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois  
333 West Lake Street

Addison, Illinois 60510

Phone: 630-628-6448X223

Fax: 630-628-6118

This message and any attachments included are from Lutheran Child and Family Services of Illinois and are for the sole use by the intended recipient(s). The information contained herein may include confidential or privileged information. Unauthorized review, forwarding, printing, copying, distributing, or usage of such information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you receive this message in error, or have reason to believe you are not authorized to receive it, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message.