

of U.S. embassies should be submitted in writing via e-mail to Ms. Mosley for transmission to those overseas offices. Once the RFGP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

VIII. Other Information

Notice: The terms and conditions published in this RFGP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFGP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements per section VI.3 above.

Dated: May 3, 2011.

Ann Stock,

Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 7440]

Extension of Accreditation Agreement With Colorado Department of Human Services Under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of State (the Department) is the lead Federal agency for implementation of the 1993 Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption (the Convention) and the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA). Among other things, the IAA gives the Secretary of State responsibility for the accreditation of agencies and approval of persons to provide adoption services under the Convention. On June 29, 2006, the Department exercised its authority under the IAA and entered into agreement with the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) under which the Department designated CDHS as an accrediting entity. This notice is to inform the public that on January 4, 2011, the Department extended the duration of the agreement with CDHS for an additional two years,

pursuant to Article 10 of the Memorandum of Agreement Between the U.S. Department of State and the Colorado Department of Human Services Regarding Performance of Duties as an Accrediting Entity Under the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2000.

The text of the Memorandum of Agreement signed on June 29, 2006 by Maura Harty, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and Marva Livingston Hammons, Executive Director, Department of Human Services, State of Colorado has not been revised. It is included in its entirety at the end of this Notice. Also included at the end of the Memorandum of Agreement is the text of the Extension of Agreement.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mikiko Stebbing at 202-736-9119. Hearing or speech-impaired persons may use the Telecommunications Devices for the Deaf (TDD) by contacting the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department, pursuant to section 202(a) of the IAA, must enter into at least one agreement to designate an accrediting entity. Accrediting entities may be (1) Nonprofit private entities with expertise in developing and administering standards for entities providing child welfare services; or (2) State adoption licensing bodies that have expertise in developing and administering standards for entities providing child welfare services and that accredit only agencies located in that State. CDHS is a State adoption licensing body with expertise in developing and administering standards for entities providing child welfare services and only accredits agencies located in the State of Colorado.

The final rule on accreditation and approval of agencies and persons (22 CFR Part 96) was published in the **Federal Register** 971 FR 8064-8066, February 15, 2006) and became effective on March 17, 2006. The final rule establishes the regulatory framework for the accreditation and approval function and provides the standards that the designated accrediting entities will follow in accrediting or approving adoption service providers.

The Department extended the agreement with CDHS pursuant to Article 10 of the Memorandum of Agreement after observing satisfactory performance of duties by CDHS as an accrediting entity through its continued compliance with the regulations set forth in Title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 96, and concluding to its satisfactory performance through the

Department's ongoing monitoring and yearly annual performance review.

Memorandum of Agreement Between the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs and the Colorado Department of Human Services Parties and Purpose of the Agreement

The Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs (Department) and the Colorado Department of Human Services (Colorado), with its principal office located at 1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203-1714, hereinafter the "Parties," are entering into this agreement for the purpose of designating Colorado as an accrediting entity under the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA), Public Law 106-279 and 22 CFR Part 96.

Authorities

The Department enters into this agreement pursuant to Sections 202 and 204 of the IAA, 22 CFR Part 96, and Delegation of Authority 261. Colorado has full authority to enter into this MOA pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes § 26-6-104(6.5), a copy of which is attached hereto as Attachment 1. The Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Human Services is authorized to sign on Colorado's behalf.

Definitions

For purposes of this memorandum of agreement, terms used here that are defined in 22 CFR 96.2 shall have the same meaning as they have in 22 CFR 96.2. In addition, the terms "transitional application deadline" (TAD) and "deadline for initial accreditation or approval" (DIAA) shall have the meaning given them in 22 CFR 96.19 and "uniform notification date" (UND) shall have the meaning given it in 22 CFR 96.58.

The Parties agree as follows:

Article 1—Designation and Jurisdiction of the Accrediting Entity

The Department hereby designates Colorado as an accrediting entity and thereby authorizes it to accredit (including temporarily accredit) agencies and approve persons that are located in Colorado and that are licensed as a child placement agency in the State of Colorado, in accordance with the procedures and standards set forth in 22 CFR Part 96, and to perform all of the accrediting entity functions set forth in 22 CFR 96.7.

Article 2—Accreditation Responsibilities and Duties of the Accrediting Entity

(1) Colorado agrees to perform all accrediting entity functions set forth in

22 CFR 96.7(a) and to perform its functions in accordance with the Convention, the IAA, Part 96 of 22 CFR and any other applicable regulations, and as additionally specified in this agreement. In performing these functions, Colorado will operate under policy direction from the Department regarding U.S. obligations under the Convention and regarding the functions and responsibilities of an accrediting entity.

(2) Colorado will take appropriate staffing, funding, and other measures to allow it to carry out all of its functions and fulfill all of its responsibilities, and will use the Adoptions Tracking System and the Hague complaint registry (ATS/HCR) as directed by the Department, including by updating required data fields in a timely fashion.

(3) In carrying out its accrediting entity functions Colorado will:

(a) Prepare to accept applications by the TAD by expending its own funds and other resources for materials development, staff training, travel and meeting attendance in advance of receiving any fees for its services as an accrediting entity;

(b) Make decisions on accreditation and approval in accordance with the procedures set forth in 22 CFR Part 96 and using only the standards in subpart F of 22 CFR Part 96 and the substantial compliance weighting system approved by the Department pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 5, below;

(c) Make decisions on temporary accreditation in accordance with the procedures and standards in subpart N of 22 CFR Part 96 and the procedures presented to the Department pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 3, subsection (a), below;

(d) Charge applicants for accreditation, approval, or temporary accreditation only fees approved by the Department pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 4 below;

(e) Consistent with 22 CFR 96.19 and 96.97, use its best efforts to evaluate and decide by the DIAA all applications for accreditation, temporary accreditation, or approval that were submitted by the TAD;

(f) Review complaints, including complaints regarding conduct alleged to have occurred abroad, in accordance with subpart J of 22 CFR Part 96 and the additional procedures approved by the Department pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 3, subsections (c) and (d) below. Colorado will exercise its discretion in determining which methods are most appropriate to review complaints regarding conduct alleged to have occurred abroad.

(g) Take adverse actions against accredited agencies, temporarily accredited agencies, and approved persons in accordance with subparts K and N of 22 CFR Part 96, and cooperate with the Department in any case in which the Department considers exercising its adverse action authorities because the accrediting entity has failed or refused after consultation with the Department to take what the Department considers to be appropriate enforcement action;

(h) Assume full responsibility for defending adverse actions in court proceedings, if challenged by the adoption service provider or the adoption service provider's board or officers;

(i) Refer an adoption service provider to the Department for debarment if, but only if, it concludes after investigation that the adoption service provider's conduct meets the standards for action by the Secretary set out in 22 CFR 96.85;

(j) Promptly report any change in the accreditation (including temporary accreditation) or approval status of an adoption service provider to the relevant state licensing authority.

(k) Maintain and use only the required procedures approved by the Department and those procedures presented to the Department pursuant to Article 3 of this agreement whenever they apply.

Article 3—Preparatory Tasks (Tasks Preceding the Transitional Application Deadline)

(1) *Accreditation Materials and Training:* In coordination with any other designated accrediting entities, by a date agreed upon by the Parties, Colorado will:

(a) Develop forms, training materials, and evaluation practices;

(b) Determine whether joint training of evaluators or other personnel is practical, and, if so, assist in conducting or participate in any joint training sessions;

(c) Develop explanatory guidance to assist applicants for accreditation, temporary accreditation, and approval in achieving substantial compliance with the applicable standards.

(2) *Development of Internal Review Procedure:* Colorado will develop and present to the Department for approval, by a date agreed upon by the Parties, procedures that it will maintain and use to determine whether to terminate adverse actions against an accredited agency or approved person on the grounds that the deficiencies necessitating the adverse action have been corrected. Colorado will develop and present to the Department, by a date

agreed upon by the Parties, procedures that it will maintain and use:

(a) To evaluate whether a candidate for temporary accreditation meets the applicable eligibility requirements set forth in 22 CFR 96.96;

(b) To carry out its annual monitoring duties;

(c) To review thoroughly complaints or information referred to it through the Hague Complaint Registry or from the Department directly, including procedures for obtaining complete and accurate information about conduct alleged to have occurred abroad;

(d) To review complaints that it receives about its own actions as an accrediting entity for Hague adoption service providers;

(e) To make the public disclosures required by 22 CFR 96.91; and

(f) To ensure the reasonableness of charges for the travel and maintenance of its site evaluators, such as for travel, meals and accommodations.

(4) *Fee Schedule Development:*

(a) Colorado will develop a fee schedule for accreditation, temporary accreditation, and approval services that meets the requirements of 22 CFR 96.8. Fees will be set based on the principle of recovering no more than the full cost, as defined in OMB Circular A–25 paragraph 6(d)(1), of accreditation, temporary accreditation, and approval services. Colorado will submit a fee schedule developed using this methodology together with comprehensive documentation justifying the proposed fees to the Department for approval by a date agreed upon by the Parties.

(b) The approved fee schedule can be amended with the approval of the Department.

(5) *Substantial Compliance Weighting Systems Development:*

(a) Colorado will develop a substantial compliance weighting system as described in 22 CFR 96.27, and will submit it to the Department for approval by a date agreed upon by the Parties.

(b) Colorado will develop a separate substantial compliance weighting system to be used in evaluating temporarily accredited agencies that incorporates the performance standards in 22 CFR 96.104 and will submit it to the Department for approval by a date agreed upon by the Parties.

(c) In developing the systems described in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, Colorado will coordinate with any other accrediting entities, and consult with the Department to ensure consistency between the systems used by accrediting entities. These systems

can be amended with the approval of the Department.

Article 4—Initial Accreditation (Including Temporary Accreditation) and Approval Tasks

(1) The Department will consult with Colorado and all other accrediting entities before establishing the transitional application deadline (TAD), the uniform notification date (UND), and the deadline for initial accreditation or approval (DIAA).

(2) Within an agreed number of days following the TAD, Colorado will make public the names and addresses of agencies and persons that have applied to be accredited (including temporarily accredited) or approved, provide a mechanism for the public to comment on applicants, and consider comments received from the public in its decisions on applicants. With respect to additional applications received prior to entry into force of the Convention, Colorado will make the names of such applicants public within an agreed number of days following receipt. Colorado will consider any public comments in its decisions on the additional applicants.

(3) In conformity with 22 CFR 96.58, Colorado will not release its accreditation (including temporary accreditation) and approval decisions prior to the UND. Colorado will prepare the list of decisions to be announced on the UND and transmit the information as directed by the Department. Colorado will immediately notify the Department of any corrections, so that the Department may rely upon this list in compiling the list of initially accredited and approved adoption service providers that it will deposit with the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

Article 5—Data Collection, Reporting and Records

(1) Adoptions Tracking System/Hague Complaint Registry (ATS/HCR):

(a) Colorado will maintain and fund a computer and Internet connection for use with the ATS/HCR that meets system requirements set by the Department;

(b) The Department will provide software or access tokens needed by individuals for secure access to the ATS/HCR and facilitate any necessary training in use of the ATS/HCR;

(c) Colorado will ensure that only individuals that the Department has approved for access have access to the ATS/HCR and to any secure access tokens or passwords.

(2) *Annual Report:* Colorado will report on dates agreed upon by the Parties, in the format specified by the Department, the information required in 22 CFR 96.93 as provided in that section through ATS/HCR.

(3) *Additional Reporting:* Colorado will provide any additional status reports or data as required by the Department, and in the format required by the Department.

(4) *Accrediting Entity Records:* Colorado will retain all records related to its accreditation functions and responsibilities for a minimum of six years after their creation, or until any litigation, claim or audit related to the records filed or noticed within the six year period is finally terminated, whichever is longer.

Article 6—Department Oversight and Monitoring

(1) *Accrediting Entity Obligations:* To facilitate oversight and monitoring by the Department, Colorado will:

(a) Provide copies of its forms and other materials to the Department and give Department personnel the opportunity to participate in any training sessions for its evaluators or other personnel;

(b) Allow the Department to inspect all records relating to its accreditation functions and responsibilities and provide to the Department copies of such records as requested or required for oversight, including to evaluate renewal or maintenance of the accrediting entity's designation, and for purposes of transferring adoption service providers to another accrediting entity;

(c) Submit to the Department by a date agreed upon by the Parties an annual declaration signed by the Licensing Administrator confirming that Colorado is complying with the IAA, 22 CFR Part 96, any other applicable regulations, and this agreement in carrying out its functions and responsibilities;

(d) Make appropriate senior-level officials available to attend a yearly performance review meeting with the Department;

(e) Immediately report to the Department events which have a significant impact on its ability to perform its functions and responsibilities as an accrediting entity, including financial difficulties, changes in key personnel or other staffing issues, State legislative or regulatory changes; legal or disciplinary actions against Colorado and conflicts of interest; requests for information that it receives from Central Authorities of other Hague signatories, or any other foreign

government authorities (except for routine requests concerning accreditation, temporary accreditation, or approval status or other information publicly available under subpart M of Part 96), and consult with the Department before releasing information;

(g) Consult immediately with the Department about any issue or event that may affect compliance with the IAA or U.S. compliance with obligations under the Convention.

(2) Departmental Approval

Procedures: In all instances in which the Department must approve a policy, system, fee schedule, or procedure before Colorado can bring it into effect or amend it, Colorado will submit the policy, system, fee schedule, or procedure or amendment in writing to the Department's AE Liaison via e-mail where possible. The AE Liaison will be responsible for coordinating the Department's approval process and arranging any necessary meetings or telephone conferences with Colorado. Formal approval by the Department will be conveyed in writing by the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Overseas Citizens Services or her or his designee.

(3) *Suspension or Cancellation:* When the Department is considering suspension or cancellation of Colorado's designation:

(a) The Department will notify Colorado in writing of the identified deficiencies in its performance and the time period in which the Department expects correction of the deficiencies;

(b) Colorado will respond in writing to either explain the actions that it has taken or plans to take to correct the deficiencies or to demonstrate that the Department's concerns are unfounded within 10 business days;

(c) Upon request, the Department will also meet with the accrediting entity by teleconference or in person;

(d) If the Department, in its sole discretion, is not satisfied with the actions or explanation of Colorado, it will notify Colorado in writing of its decision to suspend or cancel Colorado's designation and this agreement;

(e) Colorado will stop or suspend its actions as an accrediting entity as directed by the Department in the notice of suspension or cancellation, and cooperate with any Departmental instructions in order to transfer adoption service providers it accredits (including temporarily accredits) or approves to another accrediting entity, including by transferring a reasonable allocation of collected fees for the remainder of the accreditation or

approval period of such adoption service providers.

(4) *Complaint Procedures:* By a date agreed upon by the Parties, the Parties will agree upon procedures for handling complaints against the accrediting entity received by the Department or referred to the Department because the complainant was not satisfied with the accrediting entity's resolution of the complaint. These complaint procedures may be incorporated into the Department's general procedures for handling instances in which the Department is considering whether a deficiency in the accrediting entity's performance may warrant suspension or cancellation of its designation.

Article 7—Other Issues Agreed by the Parties

(1) *Conflict of interest:* Colorado shall disclose to the Department the name of any organization of which it is a member that also has as members intercountry adoption service providers. Colorado shall demonstrate to the Department that it has procedures in place to prevent any such membership from influencing its actions as an accrediting entity and shall maintain and use these procedures.

(2) *Liability:* Colorado agrees to maintain sufficient resources to defend challenges to its actions as an accrediting entity, and to inform the Department immediately of any events that may affect its ability to defend itself. Colorado agrees that it will consult with the Department immediately if it becomes aware of any legal proceedings related to its acts as an accrediting entity, or of any legal proceedings not related to its acts as an accrediting entity that may threaten its ability to continue to function as an accrediting entity.

Article 8—Liaison Between the Department and the Accrediting Entity

(1) Colorado's principal point of contact for communications relating to its functions and duties as an accrediting entity will be the Licensing Administrator in the Department of Human Services. The Department's principal point of contact for communication is the Accrediting Entity Liaison officer in the Office of Children's Issues, Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

(2) The parties will keep each other currently informed in writing of the names and contact information for their principal points of contact. As of the signing of this Agreement, the respective principal points of contact are as set forth in Attachment 2.

Article 9—Certifications and Assurances

(1) Colorado certifies that it will comply with all requirements of applicable State and Federal law.

(2) Colorado certifies that it satisfies all of the accrediting entity performance criteria set forth in 22 CFR 96.6 and agrees to continue to do so throughout the duration of its designation.

(3) Colorado agrees to indemnify the Department and any persons acting on its behalf and to hold them harmless from any claim, loss or other liability that is caused by Colorado's fault or negligence in connection with performing duties under this Agreement. Any negligence or alleged negligence by the Department or persons acting on its behalf shall not preclude a claim for indemnification.

Article 10—Agreement, Scope, and Period of Performance

(1) *Scope:*

(a) This agreement is not intended to have any effect on any activities of Colorado that are not related to its functions as an accrediting entity for adoption service providers providing adoption services in intercountry adoptions under the Hague Convention.

(b) Nothing in this agreement shall be deemed to be a commitment or obligation to provide any Federal funds. The Department, consistent with the IAA, may not provide any funds to the accrediting entity for the performance of accreditation and approval functions.

(c) All accrediting entity functions and responsibilities authorized by this agreement are to occur only during the duration of this agreement.

(d) Nothing in this agreement shall release Colorado from any legal requirements or responsibilities imposed on the accrediting entity by the IAA, 22 CFR Part 96, or any other applicable laws or regulations.

(2) *Duration:* Colorado's designation as an accrediting entity and this agreement shall remain in effect for five years from signature, unless terminated earlier by the Department in conjunction with the suspension or cancellation of the designation of Colorado. The Parties may mutually agree in writing to extend the designation of the accrediting entity and the duration of this agreement. If either Party does not wish to renew the agreement, it must provide written notice no less than one year prior to the termination date, and the Parties will consult to establish a mutually agreed schedule to transfer adoption service including by transferring a reasonable allocation of collected fees for the remainder of the accreditation or

approval period of such adoption service providers.

(3) *Severability:* To the extent that the Department determines, within its reasonable discretion, that any provision of this agreement is inconsistent with the Convention, the IAA, the regulations implementing the IAA or any other provision of law, that provision of the agreement shall be considered null and void and the remainder of the agreement shall continue in full force and effect as if the offending portion had not been a part of it.

(4) *Entirety of Agreement:* This agreement is the entire agreement of the Parties and may be modified only upon written agreement of the Parties.

Dated: June 29, 2006.

Maura Harty,
Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Consular
Affairs, Department of State.

Extension of Agreement Between the United States Department of State and the Colorado Department of Human Services

The United States Department of State and the Colorado Department of Human Services agree that the Agreement Between the U.S. Department of State and the Colorado Department of Human Services Regarding Performance of Duties as an Accrediting Entity Under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 will remain in effect until January 4, 2013.

Dated: April 25, 2011.

Janice Jacobs,
Assistant Secretary, Consular Affairs, U.S.
Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits Filed Under Subpart B (Formerly Subpart Q) During the Week Ending April 23, 2011

The following Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits were filed under Subpart B (formerly Subpart Q) of the Department of Transportation's Procedural Regulations (See 14 CFR 301.201 *et seq.*). The due date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions To Modify Scope are set forth below for each application. Following the Answer period DOT may process the application by expedited procedures. Such