



## U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

# USCIS Seoul Field Office: Processing for Form I-600 Petitions Filed on Behalf of a Child from the Republic of Korea

The last day the USCIS Seoul field office will be open to the public is Aug. 16, 2019. **Effective Aug. 17, 2019**, the USCIS Seoul field office will no longer accept or process new [Forms I-600A, Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition](#), or [Forms I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative](#). **Therefore, the last date to file a Form I-600A or Form I-600 locally with USCIS Seoul is Aug. 16, 2019.**

Future USCIS Seoul adoption workload will shift to USCIS in the U.S. for domestic processing or to the Department of State (DOS). Specifically, **after Aug. 16, 2019**, instead of filing with USCIS Seoul, a U.S. citizen prospective adoptive parent(s) may file:

- Form I-600A applications and Form I-600 petitions with the USCIS National Benefits Center (NBC) via the appropriate Lockbox, and
- Form I-600 petitions with the appropriate Embassy or consulate in the adoptive child's country of origin (if certain requirements are met).

See the [USCIS Seoul Field Office](#) webpage and Filing Instructions for [Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative](#), for additional filing information.

### ***Important Note Regarding Form I-600 Petitions Processed at the National Benefits Center on Behalf of a Child from the Republic of Korea (ROK) with a Receipt Date Before or After Aug. 23, 2019***

Any Form I-600 petition filed on behalf of a child from ROK with the NBC via the Lockbox with a receipt date **after Aug. 23, 2019**, **must include evidence of a final adoption order issued by the ROK Family Court** as required by the ROK Special Adoption Act (effective since August 5, 2012). If USCIS receives a Form I-600 petition filed **after Aug. 23, 2019** (as reflected by the date on the receipt notice) without evidence of a final adoption order, the NBC will issue a Request for Evidence of a final adoption order as appropriate.

**After Aug. 23, 2019**, the NBC will issue **final approval** of Form I-600 petitions filed with the NBC via a domestic Lockbox after Aug. 23, 2019 if prospective adoptive parents establish the child qualifies for classification as an orphan on the basis of a final adoption. The NBC will route approved Form I-600 petitions through the National Visa Center to the U.S. Embassy in Seoul for completion of the Form I-604 determination and visa screening.

Any Form I-600 petitions filed on behalf of a child from the ROK via the appropriate Lockbox for NBC processing with a receipt date **on or before Aug. 23, 2019** will follow the previous processing model. For information on that processing model see the archived USCIS webpage [Transferring Forms I-600 Filed on Behalf of Children from the Republic of Korea from National Benefits Center to USCIS Seoul Field Office](#).

However, if you file a Form I-600 petition on behalf of a child from the ROK via the domestic Lockbox for NBC processing and have a receipt date **after Aug. 23, 2019**, you must submit:

- A legible, certified copy of the Adoption Decree and Certificate of Irrevocable Judgment; and
- Evidence the single parent, or, if married, at least one parent, saw the child before or during the adoption proceedings in order to obtain an IR-3 visa classification for the child.

Families may also choose to file their Form I-600 petitions directly with the U.S. Embassy in Seoul **after Aug. 16, 2019**.

### ***Cases Pending with USCIS Seoul Field Office***

Due to the scheduled closure, the USCIS Seoul field office may not be able to complete adjudication of pending Form I-600A applications and Form I-600 petitions. If the USCIS Seoul field office transfers a pending application or petition as detailed below, USCIS will issue a Notice of Transfer letter, including the transfer location, date of transfer, and information to confirm the status of the pending Form I-600A or Form I-600.

- Any pending Form I-600A application will be transferred to the NBC to complete processing.
- Any pending Form I-600 petition filed on behalf of a child **not** from the ROK will be transferred to the NBC to complete processing.
- Any pending Form I-600 petition filed on behalf of a child from the ROK will be transferred to the consular section at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul. Note, the consular section will also complete the required Form I-604 orphan determination in all Form I-600 cases regardless of where the petition is filed or transferred.

Last Reviewed/Updated: 08/09/2019