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

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Submitted by Chief Editor on Aug 10th 2019

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](#) ^[2], or [Forms I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative](#) ^[3]. **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](#) ^[4] webpage and Filing Instructions for [Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative](#) ^[5], 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.](#) [6]

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.

Team Notes:

Agency:

[USCIS](#) [7]

Green Card:

[Adoption](#) [8]

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Links:

[1] <https://immigration.com/news/adoption/uscis-seoul-field-office-processing-form-i-600-petitions-filed-behalf-a-child-republic>

[2] <https://www.uscis.gov/i-600a>

[3] <https://www.uscis.gov/i-600>

[4] <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/south-korea-uscis-seoul-field-office>

[5] <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-instructions-form-i-600-petition-classify-orphan-immediate-relative>

[6] <https://www.uscis.gov/archive/archive-forms-updates/transferring-forms-i-600-filed-behalf-children-republic-korea-national-benefits-center-uscis-seoul-field-office>

[7] <https://immigration.com/agencies/agency/dhs/uscis>

[8] <https://immigration.com/greencard/green-card/adoption>