



Office of Communications

**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

USCIS Update

May 17, 2007

USCIS UPDATES GUATEMALA ADOPTION PROCESSING TIMES

WASHINGTON – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced new processing times for Guatemalan orphan petitions today. The USCIS office in Guatemala will now take up to 60 days to review initial documents and up to four business days to review final adoption documents in support of an orphan petition. The USCIS office in Guatemala will continue to process orphan petitions Monday through Thursday, excluding U.S. and Guatemalan national holidays.

In light of a number of problems with Guatemala's intercountry adoption process the USCIS office in Guatemala is applying more scrutiny to all Guatemalan orphan petitions. In particular, the arrest in the United States of a well-known adoption facilitator as well as concerns about unlawful practices by others involved with adoptions in Guatemala indicate that the adoption process in Guatemala is not adequately protecting all children. The increased processing times will allow the USCIS office in Guatemala to ensure that all adoptions are processed according to U.S. and Guatemalan laws as well as international standards.

For further information you may contact the USCIS National Customer Service at 1-800-375-5283, the USCIS website: www.uscis.gov or the U.S. State Department website: http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/intercountry/intercountry_482.html

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