



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

20 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20529-2100

PAP Name
PAP Address

Date

RE: Humanitarian Parole for [insert child(ren) name(s)]

Dear [insert PAP Name(s)]:

First, let us congratulate you on the arrival of your adoptive child(ren) in the United States. While your child(ren)'s departure from Haiti was precipitated by difficult circumstances, we are pleased to know that your child(ren), and the other Haitian children who benefited from the Special Humanitarian Parole Program for Haitian Orphans, are here and safe.

This letter provides an explanation of the availability screening undertaken by USCIS in making its determination that your child(ren) was/were eligible for the Special Humanitarian Parole Program for Haitian Orphans. This information may be useful to you as you seek legal custody and an adoption in the United States. It is intended for your use with the appropriate state and local authorities as you go through these processes.

The laws of the state in which you reside will govern legal custody and adoption proceedings. In an adoption proceeding, the state court may have to determine whether the child is legally available for adoption. USCIS made a determination that the children were available for adoption before they were paroled into the United States under the Special Humanitarian Parole Program for Haitian Orphans.

Availability Screening for the Humanitarian Parole Program

USCIS authorized humanitarian parole for [insert child(ren)'s name(s)]. Our records indicate that the Prime Minister of Haiti authorized the child(ren) to leave Haiti for the purpose of adoption. Your child(ren) then arrived in the United States shortly thereafter..

As part of the screening process prior to authorization for humanitarian parole, you submitted to USCIS sufficient evidence to support the finding that, before January 12, 2010, the child(ren) was/were already available for intercountry adoption.

USCIS considered both primary and secondary documentary evidence in determining a child's eligibility for this special program, understanding that many documents were destroyed or lost during the earthquake. The types of evidence generally presented included:

- Documentation granting custody of an abandoned child to an orphanage;
- Documentation granting custody of a child to the adoptive parents for purposes of immigration and adoption;
- Documentation of relinquishment of a child for purposes of immigration and adoption;
- Evidence that the child had a dossier under review at Haiti's Institute du Bien Etre Social et de Recherches (IBESR) prior to Jan. 12;
- Evidence that the IBESR granted authorization for the adoption to proceed; or
- Orphanage records documenting the relinquishment and intent to release the child for adoption.

Not every case involved all of these types of evidence. But in each specific case, USCIS found that the evidence presented-- in combination with the Government of Haiti's authorization that the child(ren) depart Haiti for the purpose of joining your family and being adopted-- gave USCIS a proper basis for paroling the child(ren) into the United States under the Special Humanitarian Parole Program for Haitian Orphans.

We hope this information will be of assistance to you and wish you all the best.

Sincerely,



Joanna Ruppel
Chief, International Operations
Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Division