

Cambodian Adoptions  
Text of Email Message to Congressional Staff and Adoptive Parents  
Update: Submission of Dossiers  
June 11, 2002

The Task Force has been following up on our productive meetings with the Cambodian government in which they responded favorably to our proposal to expand the work of this Special Humanitarian Initiative. As a result, a process has been established for the collection of necessary documentation from the prospective adoptive parents who have been included in the expanded initiative.

The documentation below, commonly referred to as the "dossier," will be accepted at the cashier's window of the U.S Consulate in Phnom Penh from 1:30-3:00 PM daily as of tomorrow, Wednesday, June 12, 2002 (Cambodia time).

The contents of the dossiers essentially have not changed. Please submit five (5) copies plus English/Khmer translations of the following:

- I-600A approval package, including I-171H notice/Visa 37 cable, a copy of the home study submitted to INS, medical and financial documents, marriage/divorce and birth certificates, and criminal records
- Photos of prospective adoptive parents
- Copies of your passports
- Promise letters regarding legal rights of the child and annual reporting to Cambodia
- Any documentation that the orphanage has provided you regarding the child, which may include documentation on origins of child, acceptance into the orphanage, 90-day advertisement, photographs of the child, and medical documentation.

After your dossier has been submitted, a receipt will be available the following business day from 1:30-3:00 PM at the cashier's window for pick-up.

If you have chosen not to work with a facilitator in Cambodia, you may wish to ship your documents via Federal Express or other private courier to:

US EMBASSY  
27 EO STREET 240  
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA  
ATTN: BRUCE HOWARD, ADOPTIONS TASK FORCE

Please note: For many reasons, mailing your dossier to Cambodia via parcel post ("snail mail") may result in significant delays in processing. Once the Task Force receives a dossier in this manner, they will fax/e-mail a receipt to the Task Force Headquarters in Washington, DC to be forwarded to the prospective adoptive parent.

There are no deadlines for when this dossier should be submitted, however, we encourage you to submit the paperwork at your earliest convenience. The Task Force will be gathering the documentation and forwarding it to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – at their request – to begin the Cambodian government review of the cases. The Cambodian authorities have not provided us with any concrete timelines on how long this will take but the Task Force will continue to work on moving the process along as quickly as possible.

**OTHER ISSUES:**

Many of you have asked for clarification on the so-called "release letters" from the US Embassy. The Minister of Foreign Affairs has indicated that the diplomatic note issued by the US Embassy will serve the same purpose as the release letters and an additional individual letter for each case is NOT required.

For those prospective adoptive parents who are seeking to adopt from Cambodia but are not included in the expanded initiative, please be advised that you should NOT submit your dossier to the Consulate at this time. We understand that you are eager to proceed with your case, however, we are only moving forward with those cases included in the expanded initiative.

Thank you again for your cooperation. We will continue to post updates via e-mail as they become available.

[Back to Cambodian  
Adoptions Page](#)