



November 19, 2004

Press Release

USCIS HONORED DURING NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH

More than 13,000 Citizenship Certificates Issued Under Child Citizenship Act Project

Washington, DC – The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Child Citizenship Act Project (CCAP) will be honored on National Adoption Day, November 20th, by the Adoptive Parents Committee (APC) for the role that CCAP has played in the successful implementation of the Child Citizenship Act. The “Friends of Adoption” award will be presented during the annual conference of APC, the oldest adoptive parent group in North America.

Since January 2004, more than 13,000 Certificates of Citizenship have been issued to children adopted from 82 countries by the CCAP, which is based at the Buffalo USCIS office. Children adopted overseas by U.S. citizens and admitted into the U.S. in the IR-3 category automatically receive a Certificate of Citizenship within 45 days of their admission. The IR-3 visa accounts for approximately seventy percent of children adopted by U.S. citizens, and is used for cases where adoptions are made final overseas.

On November 4, 2004, President George W. Bush signed a proclamation designating November as National Adoption Month, noting, “By deciding to share their hearts and homes with a child, adoptive parents demonstrate great compassion and receive many blessings in return. During National Adoption Month, we recognize the generosity of adoptive and foster families who are providing hope and love, and we encourage the adoption of children of all ages.”

In November 2003, USCIS created the Child Citizenship Act Project to streamline the process by which parents obtain a Certificate of Citizenship for their children. The program eliminated the backlog of N-643 forms, and since January 1, 2004, automatically provides Certificates of Citizenship to certain adopted children within 45 days of their entry into the United States.

The Child Citizenship Act of 2000 amended Section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, sanctioning automatic citizenship for certain children upon entry into the U.S., or upon adjustment of status to that of a Lawful Permanent Resident. At the time of enactment, the status of thousands of adopted children in the U.S. changed from Lawful Permanent Resident to United States Citizen.



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