

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

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*425 I Street NW*  
*Washington, DC 20536*

*May 13, 2003*

MEMORANDUM FOR INTERIM AREA DIRECTORS FOR SERVICES, BCIS  
INTERIM DIRECTORS, BCIS

FROM: William R. Yates /s/  
Acting Associate Director for Operations,  
Bureau of Citizenship & Immigration Services

SUBJECT: Additional Guidance re:  
Processing Fingerprint Checks Prior to the Filing of Form I-600 Abroad

On April 7, 2003, a memorandum was issued entitled, Processing Fingerprint Checks Prior to the Filing of Form I-600 Abroad, which modified the procedures for the adjudication of the Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition, Form I-600A.

The following guidance is included in the referenced memorandum:

“In order to best utilize the fifteen month FBI fingerprint check period of validity, the adjudicating office should schedule the PAPs and all qualifying household members for fingerprinting *after* the home study has been received.”

This guidance was intended to assist both the adjudicating officers and the prospective adoptive parents by PAPs allowing for the fingerprint clearance period to more closely mirror the I-600A validity period. It has been brought to our attention that there may be some instances when it would be more beneficial for prospective adoptive parents to be fingerprinted at the time of filing the I-600A, even if the home study does not accompany the submission. If the prospective adoptive parents indicate that they will be adopting from a country when it does not usually take a substantial amount of time to complete the adoption, then it may be best to schedule fingerprinting at the time of filing the I-600A.

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Also, if your office takes several weeks to schedule applicants for fingerprinting, then it may be best to schedule fingerprinting at the time of filing the Form I-600A.

If for these or any other reasons it would be most expeditious to schedule fingerprinting at the time of filing the I-600A, instead of following receipt of the home study, the April 7, 2003 memorandum should in no way be construed to limit the adjudicating officer's discretion to schedule the fingerprinting appointment accordingly.