



Embassy of the United States of America
Seoul, Korea

**A CHILD ADOPTED IN KOREA MUST BE PROCESSED BY THE AUTHORIZED
ADOPTION AGENCIES LISTED IN FORM SEO-5**

Please read the following information carefully:

ELIGIBILITY FOR ORPHAN VISAS

1. Eligible orphans must be under sixteen years of age at the time the petition is filed with the Immigration and Naturalization Service.
2. A child who has become an orphan in any of the following circumstances may be eligible:
 - a. A child who has lost both parents through death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion by, or separation or loss from both parents.
 - b. A child who has one parent because of the death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion by, or separation or loss from the other parent, and in which case the remaining parent is incapable of providing care for such orphan and has in writing irrevocably released the child for emigration and adoption.
3. The petition must be filed by an American citizen and spouse, who have been married more than 3 years and should be older than 25 and less than 45 years of age, the age difference between man and wife should be less than 15 years, should have no more than 5 children including adopted children, and the following provisions must be met:
 - a. If the adoption is completed in Korea, both adopting parents must have seen and lived with the child for more than 3 months either prior to or during the processing of the adoption papers.
 - b. If the adoption is to be completed in the United States the adopting parents must complete preadoption proceedings through the Surrogate Court of the State of the child's proposed residence.
 - c. A separate petition (Form I-600) must be filed in behalf of each orphan being adopted. When both adopting parents are residing in Korea, the petition and supporting documents must be filed with the Officer-in-Charge, U.S. Immigration

and Naturalization Service, American Embassy, Unit 15550, APO AP 96205. One parent will sign the petition under oath, and the other parent will certify agreement in the space provided on the petition. U.S. servicemen may, if they prefer, have their signatures notarized by a commissioned officer of the Armed Forces. When both adopting parents are in the United States, one spouse will take the oath, the other will certify accord, and the petition will be filed with the District Office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service having jurisdiction over the place in which they reside.

4. It should be noted that no natural parent of any eligible orphan admitted into the United States under these provisions may, by virtue of such parentage, be given any right, privilege or status under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

5. Processing of petition Form I-600 by the Immigration and Naturalization Service normally takes from 4 to 6 months to complete. When approved, notification is sent by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to the adopting parents, and the petition is sent to this office. The Embassy then informs the adopting parents or their agent of the procedures to follow in order to obtain an immigrant visa for the child.

6. The period of validity of a visa issued under the above provisions will be six months from the date of issuance. However, it can be extended within a period not exceeding three years from the date of issuance in the case of United States citizens who are serving abroad in the United States Armed Forces, or are employed abroad by the United States Government, or are temporarily abroad on business.

7. Eligible orphans must meet medical requirements as prescribed by the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Enclosures: 1. Form SEO-5, List of Korean Adoption Agencies
2. Petition Form I-600