



November 5, 2021

IAAME Updated Messaging COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Due to the continued effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the operations of Adoption Service Providers (ASPs), IAAME is continuing to modify various deadlines and other requirements where possible.

Accreditation and Approval On-site and Desk Reviews

IAAME believes there are many benefits to conducting in-person site visits as part of the accreditation or approval process. Several ASPs with site visits scheduled in early 2022 have expressed a desire to have IAAME staff travel on-site as part of the review process, while others have requested IAAME not conduct a physical site visit for safety reasons.

IAAME values the safety and well-being of its staff and the staff of each ASP. Due to the continued unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic and under current conditions, IAAME believes the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19 outweighs the benefits of an in-person site visit at this time. As a result, IAAME has formally requested waivers of physical site visit requirements from the Secretary for ASPs whose accreditation or approval is set to expire in 2022.

As of the date of this notice, waiver requests are under review and consideration by the Secretary. As there is no guarantee the Secretary will approve these requests, IAAME continues to plan for potential travel to each ASP's site, as required within 22 CFR 96. IAAME also continues to actively schedule and conduct electronic desk reviews. ASPs in the renewal process whose accreditation or approval is set to expire in 2022, will receive individual communication from assigned Analysts once a formal decision has been rendered and if any subsequent planning or scheduling may be required.

Timeframes for Submission of Information to IAAME

IAAME will utilize timeframes established within its external policies posted on our website IAAME.net. We will continue to provide opportunities for flexibility in required timeframes for submission of information to IAAME in circumstances where an ASP believes its ability to meet a required timeframe is impacted by COVID-19-related issues. In such circumstances, the ASP may reach out to its assigned Analyst to request a specific extension of the timeframe, noting the reason for the anticipated delay. IAAME management will review each request and approve such extensions on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration whether an extension of the timeframe is feasible given any deadlines IAAME is required to meet as required by the Department of State, requirements in 22 CFR 96, or if it may impact an ASP's accreditation or approval status.

Child Safety and Risk to Children

As an Accrediting Entity, IAAME is required to act immediately when it determines an ASP's actions create an immediate child safety-related risk.



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Intercountry Adoption Accreditation and Maintenance Entity, Inc.

Ongoing Monitoring of this Plan

IAAME will reassess the effects of COVID-19 on IAAME and ASP operations on an ongoing basis in 2022. If changes are made that would impact the above notice, IAAME will send updated communication to all ASPs via a Portal Newsfeed post.