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Intercountry Adoption Accreditation and Maintenance Entity, Inc.

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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

As noted in IAAME's previously published Covid-Communication from November of 2021, IAAME requested a waiver of the physical site visit requirements from the Secretary for ASPs whose accreditation or approval is set to expire in 2022. Those waivers were approved by the Secretary in late 2021 for each ASP that fits the above criteria.

IAAME continues to value the safety and well-being of its staff and the staff of each Adoption Service Provider, and due to the continued unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic and under current conditions, IAAME believes the risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19 outweigh the benefits of an in-person site visit currently. Adoption Service Providers scheduled to complete an accreditation or approval review with a 2022 expiration date should plan on IAAME conducting a virtual desk review in lieu of a physical site visit, unless otherwise communicated. IAAME will regularly assess the current environment, in consultation with the State Department, to determine when on-site travel becomes a safe option.

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.

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. If Adoption Service Providers have questions related to individual circumstances, they may contact the assigned IAAME Analyst.