



LOCAL AGENCY GARNERS FEDERAL APPROVAL UNDER NEW INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES

(TULSA, OK)--Dillon International is accredited, under newly established regulations, to provide adoption services according to provisions of the Hague Convention, federal officials announced today.

The U.S. Department of State released a list of adoption service providers that meet the criteria, outlined by the Department of State and evaluated by the Council on Accreditation, to process adoptions under the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption. The Hague will take effect in the United States on April 1, 2008. After this date, only accredited agencies will be able to process Hague adoption cases.

"This is a major milestone for the U.S. adoption process. Receiving this accreditation is a great honor for Dillon International. It allows us to continue serving families who are adopting from other countries that are part of the Hague," said Angela Kopplin, Dillon International's Hague Coordinator. "The rigorous accreditation process we completed has made us a better agency through streamlining our delivery of services to children and families while creating new strategies for enhancing these services. This is also an important day for adoptive families because they are now empowered to check the accreditation status of any agency they are considering. Even if they aren't adopting from another Hague country, they can be sure that an accredited agency is held to very high standards in their business and adoption best practices."

The Hague Convention is an agreement designed to govern the adoption process and protect children adopted across national boundaries.

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More than 60 countries have ratified the convention in agreements that acknowledge every child has a right to a permanent family, even when that family is in another country, and that adoption of children between countries should take place through agreed-upon procedures that are ethical and orderly.

"The entire premise of the Hague convention is that children should first and foremost remain in their country of origin and with their original family," Kopplin explained. "However, when that isn't possible, those children have an inherent right to be adopted into a safe and loving environment. Dillon's mission from the beginning of the agency has been in agreement with standard. Our co-founders, Jerry and Deniese Dillon were instrumental in the U.S. working to ratify the Hague convention, believing that cooperation between countries will provide greater safeguards for children."

Founded in 1972, Dillon International provides humanitarian aid and adoption services to children in China, India, Haiti, South Korea, Vietnam, Ukraine, and Guatemala. The licensed, non-profit agency is headquartered in Tulsa, Okla. with branch locations in St. Louis, Mo.; the Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas area; Little Rock, Ark.; Wichita, Kan.; Tustin, Calif. (in Orange County); and Richmond, Ind.

Additional information on the Hague Convention can be accessed on the Dillon International website at <http://www.dillonadopt.com/Hague.htm>; the U.S. Department of State website at http://travel.state.gov/family/adoption/convention/convention_2300.html; and the Council on Accreditation website at <http://www.coanet.org/front3/page.cfm?sect=54&cont=4203>.