



Philippines

January 30, 2011

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Notice: ICAB Announces Temporary Moratorium

The Philippine Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB) has announced a moratorium on accepting new applications from Adoption Service Providers (ASPs) who submitted more than 10 adoption cases per year for the last three years. This moratorium is designed to allow ICAB to focus its efforts on applications already filed and "enable ICAB to address the protracted waiting period for child placement." ICAB has indicated that the moratorium will be lifted once it has determined that it has been able to meet the needs of at least 50 percent of those currently waiting for a child. We will post more information on the effective end date of the moratorium as soon as it becomes available to us.

This moratorium does not apply to the following cases:

- applications to be matched with special needs children;
- intra-familial adoptions;
- applications submitted by families who received their approval for suitability to adopt prior to January 31, 2011; and
- applications submitted by ASPs that have not reached the cap of 10 adoption cases per year for the last three years. ICAB has provided the names of three U.S. ASPs affected by this suspension to the Department of State, and the Department has notified those ASPs. Please contact your ASP directly to understand whether your case is affected by the moratorium.

If you have any questions about this announcement, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Children's Issues by phone at 1-888-407-4747 or e-mail at adoptionUSCA@state.gov. You may also find further information on ICAB's website at <http://www.icab.gov.ph/>.