

[travel.state.gov](#) > [Intercountry Adoption](#) > [Country Information](#) > [Alerts & Notices](#) > **Kenya**



Kenya

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Notice: New documents required for Kenya intercountry adoption dossiers and ASP authorization

Citing concerns regarding the path to U.S. citizenship for Kenyan children adopted by U.S. citizens, the Kenyan Adoption Committee (KAC) confirmed they will now request two new letters issued by the U.S. government as part of the intercountry adoption process. The KAC will require one new letter from prospective adoptive parents and one new letter from U.S. adoption service providers (ASPs) as part of the authorization process.

To accommodate KAC's new requirements, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) will issue a letter to prospective adoptive parents at the time of the Form I-800A approval, describing the path by which an adoptee can acquire U.S. citizenship. This letter will be a separate document from the Form I-800A approval notice. Families should include this letter when submitting their dossier to the KAC.

Additionally, upon request from a U.S. ASP, the U.S. Department of State, Office of Children's Issues will issue a letter describing the path by which an adoptee can acquire U.S. citizenship for use in applications to the KAC to obtain or renew authorization to operate in Kenya. The Office of Children's Issues will submit this letter directly to the KAC, with a copy to the requesting ASP. This letter is separate from the accreditation status verification letter that is currently required by the KAC. ASP's will need to request both letters from the U.S. Department of State, Office of Children's Issues as part of their application to the KAC.

If you have additional questions on the processing of adoptions in Kenya, please contact the Office of Children's Issues at askCI@state.gov.