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**From:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services <uscis@public.govdelivery.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 12:39 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Impacts on Intercountry Adoptions

Because of the current coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we have received numerous inquiries from concerned parents who are at various stages of adopting children from abroad and bringing children to the United States. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is committed to working with prospective adoptive parents to assist them to the greatest extent possible.

Some parents have inquired about the use of [parole](#) for adoptive children to enter the United States. USCIS may use its discretion to authorize parole on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or a significant public benefit. However, we rarely approve parole requests for adoption-related cases because parole does not provide the same procedural safeguards for prospective adoptive children, prospective adoptive parents, and birth parents that exist in regular adoption-based immigration avenues, such as determinations that a child is an orphan or available for intercountry adoption.

Parole does not afford children the U.S. immigration status protections that regular adoption-based immigration avenues provide. For example, a child who is paroled has not been formally admitted into the United States for purposes of immigration law and would have to take additional steps in order to become a lawful permanent resident (LPR) and a U.S. citizen. The child would not be admitted as an LPR and would not automatically acquire U.S. citizenship as other children entering on the basis of adoption normally do.

**For More Information**

For the most current information related to USCIS intercountry adoption, please visit [uscis.gov/adoption](https://uscis.gov/adoption). USCIS will provide updates as the COVID-19 situation develops and will continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance in response to this situation. Please visit [uscis.gov/coronavirus](https://uscis.gov/coronavirus) for updates.

Kind regards,

Public Engagement Division  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services



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