

The Hague Convention Accreditation and Approval Process

The accreditation and approval process is comprised of six phases:

- Application
- Preparation and Self-Study
- Site Visit
- Pre-Commission Review
- Commission Review
- Monitoring and Oversight

Dual Accreditation

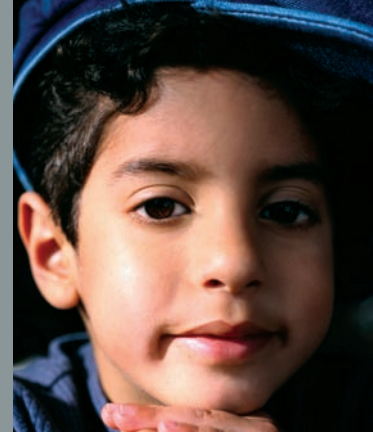
Organizations may choose to seek COA accreditation in addition to Hague accreditation through a dual accreditation process.

Dual accreditation will offer:

- a focus on organizational capacity and effectiveness, in addition to compliance with the Hague Convention and the Hague Standards
- a review of all services and management practices
- a streamlined process
- integrated standards tools
- a modified fee



Hague Accreditation and Approval



For more information, please call:

1.866.COA.8088

Or visit our web site at www.coanet.org



Council on Accreditation
120 Wall Street, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10005
tel: 212.797.3000
fax: 212.797.1428



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT



Who We Are

The Council on Accreditation (COA) is a not-for-profit independent accreditor of the full continuum of community-based human service organizations in the United States and Canada. Today, more than 1500 organizations serving more than 7 million vulnerable individuals, children and families are members of COA's "family of excellence."

COA accreditation is supported by over twenty-four (24) national and international organizations, a cadre of over 1,000 volunteers and an international board of trustees.

What Is the Hague Convention?

The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Convention) is an international treaty designed to protect the interests of children and families involved with intercountry adoption, and to prevent the sale, abduction, and trafficking of children. The convention and the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (IAA) require the accreditation or approval of private organizations or individuals who provide adoption services to children and families.

One of the additional values of the Hague Convention is to learn lessons that can be applied to establishing and validating appropriate best practices with regards to the delivery of other human services throughout the world. The U.S. Department of State is the central authority in the U.S. and has been working to fully ratify the treaty.

COA's Role

COA has supported the implementation of the Convention in the United States for many years, and has provided independent accreditation of intercountry adoption services since 1987. COA was designated by the U.S. Department of State in July of 2006 as the only national accrediting entity authorized to provide Hague Accreditation and Approval services. COA will conduct a fair and rigorous evaluation of each adoption service provider. In addition, COA will provide technical assistance and support to adoption service providers throughout the process.

Value of Hague Accreditation and Approval

Hague Convention Accreditation and Approval is designed to ensure that high standards are met in the practice of intercountry adoption and that adoption services are provided consistently with the principles of the Convention. Adoption service providers can use accreditation and approval to validate their compliance with the Convention and the quality of services provided. Independent validation is an important tool in preventing unethical and illegal practices and providing safeguards for children and families engaged in intercountry adoption.

