

minutes multiplied by 365 days; approximately 365 burden hours per accrediting entity; for an estimated annualized total of 3,285 hours.

We request and welcome comments on the accuracy of the estimates. Comments on the collection of information should be sent to OMB, Attn: Desk Officer for the Department of State, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Room 10202, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 who may be reached on 202-395-3897; also send copies to Department of State at the address provided for in the Addresses section of this preamble. OMB is required to make a decision concerning the collection of information between 30 and 60 days after publication of this proposed rule. Consequently, a comment to OMB is best assured of having its full effect if OMB receives it within 30 days after publication of this proposed rule.

H. The Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act of 1999—Assessment of Federal Regulations and Policies on Families

In light of the subject matter of these proposed regulations, and section 654 of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act of 1999, Public Law 105-277, 112 Stat. 2681 (1998), the Department has assessed the impact of these proposed regulations on family well-being in accordance with section 654(c) of that act. This rule implements the Convention and the IAA requirements related to the accreditation and approval of adoption service providers who provide adoption services to families involved in an intercountry adoption. This proposed rule will promote child safety, child and family well-being, and stability for children in need of a permanent family placement through intercountry adoption. The rule will help to ensure that adoption service providers are taking appropriate steps to protect children and to strengthen and support families involved in the intercountry adoption process.

List of Subjects in 22 CFR Part 96

Adoption and foster care, International agreements, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Accordingly, the Department proposes to add new part 96 to title 22 of the CFR, chapter I, subchapter J to read as follows:

PART 96—ACCREDITATION OF AGENCIES AND APPROVAL OF PERSONS UNDER THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION ACT OF 2000 (IAA)

Subpart A—General Provisions

Sec.

- 96.1 Purpose.
- 96.2 Definitions.
- 96.3 [Reserved]

Subpart B—Selection, Designation, and Duties of Accrediting Entities

- 96.4 Designation of accrediting entities by the Secretary.
- 96.5 Requirement that accrediting entity be a non-profit or public entity.
- 96.6 Performance criteria for designation as an accrediting entity.
- 96.7 Authorities and responsibilities of an accrediting entity.
- 96.8 Fees charged by accrediting entities.
- 96.9 Agreement between the Secretary and the accrediting entity.
- 96.10 Suspension or cancellation of the designation of an accrediting entity by the Secretary.
- 96.11 [Reserved]

Subpart C—Accreditation and Approval Requirements for the Provision of Adoption Services

- 96.12 Authorized adoption service providers.
- 96.13 Activities that do not require accreditation, approval, or supervision.
- 96.14 Providing adoption services using supervised providers, exempted providers, public bodies, or public authorities.
- 96.15 Public bodies.
- 96.16 Effective date of accreditation and approval requirements.
- 96.17 [Reserved]

Subpart D—Application Procedures for Accreditation and Approval

- 96.18 Scope.
- 96.19 Special provisions for agencies and persons seeking to be accredited or approved at the time the convention enters into force for the United States.
- 96.20 First-time application procedures for accreditation and approval.
- 96.21 Choosing an accrediting entity.
- 96.22 [Reserved]

Subpart E—Evaluation of Applicants for Accreditation and Approval

- 96.23 Scope.
- 96.24 Procedures for evaluating applicants for accreditation or approval.
- 96.25 Access to information and documents requested by the accrediting entity.
- 96.26 Protection of information and documents by the accrediting entity.
- 96.27 Substantive criteria for evaluating applicants for accreditation or approval.
- 96.28 [Reserved]

Subpart F—Standards for Convention Accreditation and Approval

- 96.29 Scope.

Licensing and Corporate Governance

- 96.30 State licensing.

- 96.31 Corporate structure.
- 96.32 Internal structure and oversight.

Financial and Risk Management

- 96.33 Budget, audit, insurance, and risk assessment requirements.
- 96.34 Compensation.

Ethical Practices and Responsibilities

- 96.35 Suitability of agencies and persons to provide adoption services consistent with the Convention.
- 96.36 Prohibition on child buying.

Professional Qualifications and Training for Employees

- 96.37 Education and experience requirements for social service personnel.
- 96.38 Training requirements for social service personnel.

Information Disclosure, Fee Practices, and Quality Control Policies and Practices

- 96.39 Information disclosure and quality control practices.
- 96.40 Fee policies and procedures.

Responding to Complaints and Records and Reports Management

- 96.41 Procedures for responding to complaints and improving service delivery.
- 96.42 Retention, preservation, and disclosure of adoption records.
- 96.43 Case tracking, data management, and reporting.

Service Planning and Delivery

- 96.44 Acting as primary provider.
- 96.45 Using supervised providers in the United States.
- 96.46 Using supervised providers in other Convention countries.

Standards for Cases in Which a Child is Immigrating to the United States

- 96.47 Preparation of home studies in incoming cases.
- 96.48 Preparation and training of prospective adoptive parent(s) in incoming cases.
- 96.49 Provision of medical and social information in incoming cases.
- 96.50 Placement and post-placement monitoring until final adoption in incoming cases.
- 96.51 Post-adoption services in incoming cases.
- 96.52 Performance of Hague Convention communication and coordination functions in incoming cases.

Standards for Cases in Which a Child is Emigrating From the United States

- 96.53 Background studies on the child and consents in outgoing cases.
- 96.54 Placement standards in outgoing cases.
- 96.55 Performance of Hague Convention communication and coordination functions in outgoing cases.
- 96.56 [Reserved]

Subpart G—Decisions on Applications for Accreditation or Approval

- 96.57 Scope.