

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 6434]

Notice of Declaration of Foreign Countries as Reciprocating Countries for the Enforcement of Family Support (Maintenance) Obligations

AGENCY: Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State.

This notice amends and supplements Department of State Public Notice 5868, 72 FR 39127–28 (July 17, 2007).

Background. Section 459A of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 659A) authorizes the Secretary of State with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to declare foreign countries or their political subdivisions to be reciprocating countries for the purpose of the enforcement of family support

obligations if the country has established or has undertaken to establish procedures for the establishment and enforcement of duties of support for residents of the United States. These procedures must be in substantial conformity with the standards set forth in the statute. The statutory standards are: Establishment of child support orders, including the establishment of paternity if necessary to establish the order; enforcement of child support orders, including collection and distribution of payments under such orders; cost-free services (including administrative and legal services), as well as paternity testing; and the designation of an agency as Central Authority to facilitate enforcement.

Once such a declaration is made, support agencies in jurisdictions of the

United States participating in the program established by Title IV–D of the Social Security Act (the IV–D program) must provide enforcement services under that program to such reciprocating countries as if the request for service came from a U.S. State.

The declaration authorized by the statute may be made “in the form of an international agreement, in connection with an international agreement or corresponding foreign declaration, or on a unilateral basis.” The Secretary of State has authorized either the Legal Adviser or the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs to make such a declaration after consultation with the other. As of this date, the following countries (or Canadian provinces or territories) have been designated foreign reciprocating countries:

Country	Effective date
Australia	May 21, 2001.
Czech Republic	May 3, 2000.
El Salvador	June 21, 2007.
Finland	Sept. 29, 2007.
Hungary	Jan. 22, 2007.
Ireland	Sept. 10, 1997.
Netherlands	May 1, 2002.
Norway	June 10, 2002.
Poland	June 14, 1999.
Portugal	Mar. 17, 2001.
Slovak Republic	Feb. 1, 1998.
Switzerland	Sept. 30, 2004.
Canadian Provinces or Territories:	
Alberta	Sept. 4, 2002.
British Columbia	Dec. 15, 1999.
Manitoba	July 11, 2000.
New Brunswick	Feb. 1, 2004.
Northwest Territories	Feb. 7, 2004.
Nunavut	Jan. 20, 2004.
Newfoundland/Labrador	Aug. 7, 2002.
Nova Scotia	Dec. 18, 1998.
Ontario	Aug. 7, 2002.
Saskatchewan	Jan. 24, 2007.
Yukon	May 22, 2007.
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Dec. 17, 2007.

Each of these countries (or Canadian provinces or territories) has designated a Central Authority to facilitate enforcement and ensure compliance with the standards of the statute. Information relating to the designated Central Authorities, and the procedures for processing requests may be obtained by contacting the United States Central Authority for International Child Support, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE), 370 L’Enfant Promenade, SW., 4–East, Washington, DC 20447; phone (202) 401–9373, fax (202) 205–5927, e-mail: ocseinternational@acf.hhs.gov.

As of this date, a reciprocity agreement has been signed, but is not yet in effect, with Costa Rica.

The law also permits individual states of the United States to establish or continue existing reciprocating arrangements with foreign countries when there has been no Federal declaration. Many states have such arrangements with additional countries not yet the subject of a Federal declaration. Information as to these arrangements may be obtained from the individual State IV–D Agency.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions regarding this notice, the status of negotiations, declarations and agreements may be obtained by contacting Mary Helen Carlson at the

Office of the Assistant Legal Adviser for Private International Law, Suite 203 South Building, 2430 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20037–2851; phone (202) 776–8420, fax (202) 776–8482, email: carlsonmh@state.gov.

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