

SUBCHAPTER II—PROVISIONS RELATING  
TO ACCREDITATION AND APPROVAL

**§ 14921. Accreditation or approval required in  
order to provide adoption services in cases  
subject to the Convention**

**(a) In general**

Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, no person may offer or provide adoption services in connection with a Convention adoption in the United States unless that person—

- (1) is accredited or approved in accordance with this subchapter; or
- (2) is providing such services through or under the supervision and responsibility of an accredited agency or approved person.

**(b) Exceptions**

Subsection (a) shall not apply to the following:

**(1) Background studies and home studies**

The performance of a background study on a child or a home study on a prospective adoptive parent, or any report on any such study by a social work professional or organization who is not providing any other adoption service in the case, if the background or home study is approved by an accredited agency.

**(2) Child welfare services**

The provision of a child welfare service by a person who is not providing any other adoption service in the case.

**(3) Legal services**

The provision of legal services by a person who is not providing any adoption service in the case.

**(4) Prospective adoptive parents acting on own behalf**

The conduct of a prospective adoptive parent on his or her own behalf in the case, to the extent not prohibited by the law of the State in which the prospective adoptive parent resides.

(Pub. L. 106-279, title II, §201, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 830.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in subsec. (a), was in the original “this title”, meaning title II of Pub. L. 106-279, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 830, which is classified principally to this subchapter. For complete classification of title II to the Code, see Tables.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective upon entry into force for the United States of the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, pursuant to Article 46(2)(a) of the Convention, with transition rule, see section 505(a)(2), (b) of Pub. L. 106-279, set out as an Effective Dates; Transition Rule note under section 14901 of this title.

**§ 14922. Process for accreditation and approval;  
role of accrediting entities**

**(a) Designation of accrediting entities**

**(1) In general**

The Secretary shall enter into agreements with one or more qualified entities under

which such entities will perform the duties described in subsection (b) in accordance with the Convention, this subchapter, and the regulations prescribed under section 14923 of this title, and upon entering into each such agreement shall designate the qualified entity as an accrediting entity.

**(2) Qualified entities**

In paragraph (1), the term “qualified entity” means—

(A) a nonprofit private entity that has expertise in developing and administering standards for entities providing child welfare services and that meets such other criteria as the Secretary may by regulation establish; or

(B) a public entity (other than a Federal entity), including an agency or instrumentality of State government having responsibility for licensing adoption agencies, that—

(i) has expertise in developing and administering standards for entities providing child welfare services;

(ii) accredits only agencies located in the State in which the public entity is located; and

(iii) meets such other criteria as the Secretary may by regulation establish.

**(b) Duties of accrediting entities**

The duties described in this subsection are the following:

**(1) Accreditation and approval**

Accreditation of agencies, and approval of persons, to provide adoption services in the United States in cases subject to the Convention.

**(2) Oversight**

Ongoing monitoring of the compliance of accredited agencies and approved persons with applicable requirements, including review of complaints against such agencies and persons in accordance with procedures established by the accrediting entity and approved by the Secretary.

**(3) Enforcement**

Taking of adverse actions (including requiring corrective action, imposing sanctions, and refusing to renew, suspending, or canceling accreditation or approval) for noncompliance with applicable requirements, and notifying the agency or person against whom adverse actions are taken of the deficiencies necessitating the adverse action.

**(4) Data, records, and reports**

Collection of data, maintenance of records, and reporting to the Secretary, the United States central authority, State courts, and other entities (including on persons and agencies granted or denied approval or accreditation), to the extent and in the manner that the Secretary requires.

**(5) Report on use of Federal funding**

Not later than 90 days after an accrediting entity receives Federal funding authorized by section 14943 of this title, the entity shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Re-