

(B) satisfactory evidence that the requirements of Articles 4 and 15 through 21 of the Convention have been met; and

(2) has determined that the adoptive placement is in the best interests of the child.

**(c) Duties of the Secretary of State**

In a case described in subsection (a), the Secretary, on receipt and verification as necessary of the material and information described in subsection (a)(3), shall issue, as applicable, an official certification that the child has been adopted or a declaration that custody for purposes of adoption has been granted, in accordance with the Convention and this chapter.

**(d) Filing with registry regarding non-Convention adoptions**

Accredited agencies, approved persons, and other persons, including governmental authorities, providing adoption services in an intercountry adoption not subject to the Convention that involves the emigration of a child from the United States shall file information required by regulations jointly issued by the Attorney General and the Secretary of State for purposes of implementing section 14912(e) of this title.

(Pub. L. 106-279, title III, §303, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 839.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (c), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 106-279, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 825, known as the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 14901 of this title and 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.

SUBCHAPTER IV—ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

**§ 14941. Access to Convention records**

**(a) Preservation of Convention records**

**(1) In general**

Not later than 180 days after October 6, 2000, the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall issue regulations that establish procedures and requirements in accordance with the Convention and this section for the preservation of Convention records.

**(2) Applicability of notice and comment rules**

Subsections (b), (c), and (d) of section 553 of title 5 shall apply in the development and issuance of regulations under this section.

**(b) Access to Convention records**

**(1) Prohibition**

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Secretary or the Attorney General may disclose a

Convention record, and access to such a record may be provided in whole or in part, only if such record is maintained under the authority of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.] and disclosure of, or access to, such record is permitted or required by applicable Federal law.

**(2) Exception for administration of the Convention**

A Convention record may be disclosed, and access to such a record may be provided, in whole or in part, among the Secretary, the Attorney General, central authorities, accredited agencies, and approved persons, only to the extent necessary to administer the Convention or this chapter.

**(3) Penalties for unlawful disclosure**

Unlawful disclosure of all or part of a Convention record shall be punishable in accordance with applicable Federal law.

**(c) Access to non-Convention records**

Disclosure of, access to, and penalties for unlawful disclosure of, adoption records that are not Convention records, including records of adoption proceedings conducted in the United States, shall be governed by applicable State law.

(Pub. L. 106-279, title IV, §401, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 841.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Immigration and Nationality Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is act June 27, 1952, ch. 477, 66 Stat. 163, which is classified principally to chapter 12 (§1101 et seq.) of Title 8, Aliens and Nationality. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1101 of Title 8 and Tables.

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (b)(2), was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 106-279, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 825, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 14901 of this title and Tables.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE

Subsec. (a) of this section effective Oct. 6, 2000, and subsecs. (b) and (c) of this 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 of Pub. L. 106-279, set out as an Effective Dates; Transition Rule note under section 14901 of this title.

**§ 14942. Documents of other Convention countries**

Documents originating in any other Convention country and related to a Convention adoption case shall require no authentication in order to be admissible in any Federal, State, or local court in the United States, unless a specific and supported claim is made that the documents are false, have been altered, or are otherwise unreliable.

(Pub. L. 106-279, title IV, §402, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 841.)

**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.

**§ 14943. Authorization of appropriations; collection of fees****(a) Authorization of appropriations****(1) In general**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to agencies of the Federal Government implementing the Convention and the provisions of this chapter.

**(2) Availability of funds**

Amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) are authorized to remain available until expended.

**(b) Assessment of fees**

(1) The Secretary may charge a fee for new or enhanced services that will be undertaken by the Department of State to meet the requirements of this chapter with respect to intercountry adoptions under the Convention and comparable services with respect to other intercountry adoptions. Such fee shall be prescribed by regulation and shall not exceed the cost of such services.

(2) Fees collected under paragraph (1) shall be retained and deposited as an offsetting collection to any Department of State appropriation to recover the costs of providing such services. Such fees shall remain available for obligation until expended.

(Pub. L. 106-279, title IV, § 403, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 841; Pub. L. 107-228, div. A, title II, § 211(a), Sept. 30, 2002, 116 Stat. 1365; Pub. L. 112-276, § 3(a), Jan. 14, 2013, 126 Stat. 2467.)

**Editorial Notes**

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning Pub. L. 106-279, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 825, known as the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 14901 of this title and Tables.

## AMENDMENTS

2013—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 112-276 struck out subsec. (c). Text read as follows: “No funds collected under the authority of this section may be made available to an accrediting entity to carry out the purposes of this chapter.”

2002—Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 107-228, § 211(a)(1), inserted “Such fees shall remain available for obligation until expended.” at end.

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 107-228, § 211(a)(2), struck out par. (3) which read as follows: “Fees authorized under this section shall be available for obligation only to the extent and in the amount provided in advance in appropriations Acts.”

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Oct. 6, 2000, with transition rule, see section 505(a)(1), (b) of Pub. L. 106-279, set out as an Ef-

fective Dates; Transition Rule note under section 14901 of this title.

**§ 14944. Enforcement****(a) Civil penalties**

Any person who—

- (1) violates section 14921 of this title;
- (2) makes a false or fraudulent statement, or misrepresentation, with respect to a material fact, or offers, gives, solicits, or accepts inducement by way of compensation, intended to influence or affect in the United States or a foreign country—

(A) a decision by an accrediting entity with respect to the accreditation of an agency or approval of a person under subchapter II;

(B) the relinquishment of parental rights or the giving of parental consent relating to the adoption of a child in a case subject to the Convention; or

(C) a decision or action of any entity performing a central authority function; or

- (3) engages another person as an agent, whether in the United States or in a foreign country, who in the course of that agency takes any of the actions described in paragraph (1) or (2),

shall be subject, in addition to any other penalty that may be prescribed by law, to a civil money penalty of not more than \$50,000 for a first violation, and not more than \$100,000 for each succeeding violation.

**(b) Civil enforcement****(1) Authority of Attorney General**

The Attorney General may bring a civil action to enforce subsection (a) against any person in any United States district court.

**(2) Factors to be considered in imposing penalties**

In imposing penalties the court shall consider the gravity of the violation, the degree of culpability of the defendant, and any history of prior violations by the defendant.

**(c) Criminal penalties**

Whoever knowingly and willfully violates paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$250,000, imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both.

(Pub. L. 106-279, title IV, § 404, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 842.)

**Editorial Notes**

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

Subchapter II, referred to in subsec. (a)(2)(A), was in the original “title II”, meaning title II of Pub. L. 106-279, Oct. 6, 2000, 114 Stat. 830, which enacted subchapter II of this chapter and amended section 622 of this title. 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, pur-