



Announcement

Update from Catholic Charities USA

Update on Adopting Haitian Orphans

In response to the many inquiries about adopting or sheltering Haitian orphans, here is an update on the information we have gathered so far.

On January 18th, DHS Secretary Napolitano announced humanitarian parole for two categories of orphaned children:

- **Category 1** – Orphaned children who were living in Haiti, for whom the legal adoption process was already completed, i.e., they have a final adoption decree. These children will be permitted to leave Haiti and will be released to the adoptive parents here in the U.S.
- **Category 2** – Children already in the process of adoption who have been matched with U.S. adoptive parents, but for whom a final decree has not yet been issued. Their prospective adoptive parents will be screened as possible sponsors; if they are eligible the child will be released to them. If not, the child will be the responsibility of HHS, the Office of Refugee Resettlement, Undocumented Minor Program and will be placed with the usual U.S. providers.

Families who had begun the adoption process before January 12th, and whose prospective adoptive children fit either category should send detailed information to the state department: HaitianAdoptions@dhs.gov

Any children who have been transported to the U.S. without prior authorization will be placed in the Undocumented Minors program. At this time no other children are being allowed to leave the country and UNICEF is trying to establish safe locations in Haiti for children who are still in danger.

If an agency becomes aware of U.S. citizens who left their Haitian children in the care of relatives in Haiti who were killed in the earthquake, and who now want to bring those children into the U.S, contact can be made with Michele Bond at the State Department via e-mail: bondmt@state.gov

Although the response of the American people to the needs of the orphaned children has been inspiring, there will likely not be a need for Americans to open their homes to these children. These individuals should be encouraged to consider a domestic or international adoption in the future or to begin the process to become a foster parent for the many American children awaiting care.

If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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