

Questionnaire on the impact of COVID-19 on intercountry adoptions under the 1993 Adoption Convention

<i>Identification for follow-up purposes:</i>	
NAME of STATE or territorial unit:	Ireland
Name of contact person:	Patricia Carey
Name of Authority / Office:	Adoption Authority of Ireland / CEO
Telephone number:	+353 1 230 9324
E-mail address:	Patricia_Carey@aai.gov.ie

I. OVERARCHING QUESTIONS	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
1.	<p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has your State modified intercountry adoption procedures under the 1993 Adoption Convention? If so, what has your State done to ensure that the safeguards and procedures of the Convention have been, and continue to be, respected?</p> <p style="color: blue;">There have not been any changes to the procedures.</p>
II. OUTBREAK OF COVID-19 (cases in transition only)	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
2.	<p>What measures, if any, did your State take to deal with cases where the child had already been matched with prospective adoptive parents, but no adoption decision had been issued at the time of the COVID-19 outbreak in your State? How many children were in such a situation?</p> <p style="color: blue;">N/A</p>
3.	<p>What measures, if any, did your State take to deal with cases where the adoption decision had already been issued, but the child was still in the State of origin at the time of the COVID-19 outbreak in your State? How many children were in such a situation?</p> <p style="color: blue;">This is an ever changing number as we negotiate with each sending country in relation to travel with quarantine. Currently there are 9 children in Vietnam where parents have received Article 17 approval but the final adoption decision is not yet made.</p>
III. DURING COVID-19 (cases in transition and new cases)	
	<u>States of origin only</u>
4.	<p>Has your State adapted, and if so how, the following stages of the adoption procedure:</p> <p>a) Declaration of adoptability of the child:</p>

	<p>Please insert text here</p> <p>b) Matching:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p> <p>c) Socialisation period:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p> <p>d) Support and counselling to adoptable children:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p> <p>e) Adoption decision:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p> <p>f) Other stages:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p>
	<p><u>Receiving States only</u></p>
5.	<p>Has your State adapted, and if so how, the following stages of the adoption procedure:</p> <p>a) Eligibility and suitability of prospective adoptive parents:</p> <p>No adaptations made</p> <p>b) Support and counselling to prospective adoptive parents:</p> <p>We provide regular updates to applicants and extend our support service to regular contact with applicants waiting to travel</p> <p>c) Other stages:</p> <p>Regular updates by email to all registered applicants with current Covid 19 travel restrictions and programme status.</p>
<p>IV. USE OF TECHNOLOGY</p>	
	<p><u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u></p>
6.	<p>Has the use of technologies (e.g, videoconferencing) evolved in the adoption procedures in place in your State since the outbreak of COVID-19 in your State? Please specify:</p> <p>a) any benefits and challenges:</p> <p>All Board/Staff meetings via Zoom</p> <p>b) if your response to question 72 (“Use of new technologies”) of the 2020 Questionnaire on the practical operation of the 1993 Adoption Convention (Prel. Doc. No 3) has changed:</p> <p>Please insert text here</p>

V. POST COVID-19: LOOKING AHEAD	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
7.	<p>Has your State developed any practices during this pandemic period that would be useful to mainstream into regular work practices? If so, please elaborate on what those practices are and how you plan to go about mainstreaming them into regular work practices:</p> <p><u>More meetings with mediation agency to ensure oversight</u></p>
8.	<p>Please share any good practices and lessons learned by your State which may be applied in the event of another pandemic or similar state of emergency:</p> <p><u>More oversight meetings</u></p>
VI. ANY OTHER COMMENTS	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
9.	<p>Please insert here any other comments you may have:</p> <p><u>We are grateful for the support of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in supporting Irish families both those travelling and those waiting to travel.</u></p>