

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

<i>Identification for follow-up purposes:</i>	
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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>A few modifications in the procedures for preparation of the social report on the prospective adoptive parents have been done since the outbreak of the pandemic in March 2020. The interviews have been primarily digital and a part of the home study has been done in personal meeting to ensure the quality of the evaluations.</p> <p>The adoption preparatory courses were delayed or cancelled for a period as from March 2020. The course consists of two week-ends with 4 weeks in between. As a result of covid-19, the second week-end course has been arranged online. Two completely digital courses will soon be tried out and evaluated by participants and the leaders of the courses,</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>Some of the cases has been exposed because of the process in the country of origin, no specific measures have been taken by the Norwegian CA. The total number of cases in Norway were approximately 20-25.</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>

	Some of the cases have been exposed because of the process in the country of origin. The total number of cases in Norway were approximately 10-15.
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: Please insert text here</p> <p>b) Matching: Please insert text here</p> <p>c) Socialisation period: Please insert text here</p> <p>d) Support and counselling to adoptable children: Please insert text here</p> <p>e) Adoption decision: Please insert text here</p> <p>f) Other stages: Please insert text here</p>
	<u>Receiving States only</u>
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: We refer to the answer to question no. 1.</p> <p>b) Support and counselling to prospective adoptive parents: We refer to the answer to question no. 1.</p> <p>c) Other stages: Please insert text here</p>
IV. USE OF TECHNOLOGY	
	<u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u>
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>For both the CA and the AABs, videoconferencing has been a much bigger part of the communication with the adoptive families, the prospective adoptive parents and other Central Authorities.</p> <p>In many ways, videoconferencing has given a lot of new opportunities. For the AABs, more contact with families living far away from the head office, especially in the early stages of the communication with prospective adoptive parents. Online information meeting will probably continue also when socializing again is allowed.</p> <p>However, the AABs have lost the direct contact with the families who would be able to visit their offices. For the CA it is more valuable to have personal meetings with the AABs and other involved in the adoption process.</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>N/A</p>
<p>V. POST COVID-19: LOOKING AHEAD</p>	
	<p><u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u></p>
<p>7.</p>	<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>Some of the videoconferencing can be used in regular work practices. However, most of the communications will benefit from personal meetings.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<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>The important part must be to have plans for alternative procedures in a similar situation.</p>
<p>VI. ANY OTHER COMMENTS</p>	
	<p><u>Both States of origin and receiving States</u></p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Please insert here any other comments you may have:</p> <p>N/A</p>