

Brown, Melissa A

RELEASED IN PART

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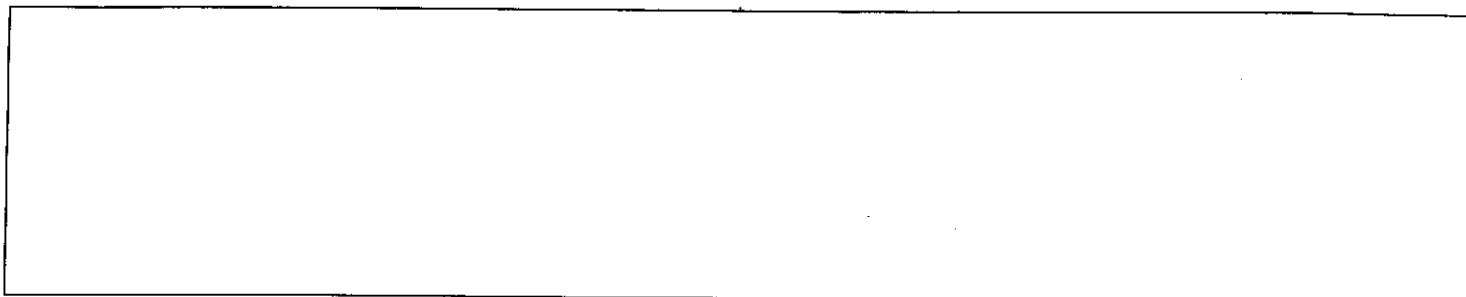
From: Fuller, Gerry W
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 9:16 AM
To: Alexander, Eric M (Hanoi); Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dickey, Gordon J; Gorsky, Jeffrey H; Brown, Melissa A; Furuta-Toy, Julie A; Saint-Victor, Marc; Russell, Mary Ann X (Ho Chi Minh City)
Subject: RE: JCICS
Attachments: image001.jpg

I hear your concerns. I frankly think there is good will on the part of JCICS-- but they are not willing to commit themselves legally to more than what is in the draft. What we'll need to do is work with them so that they understand what we expect and need regarding "how the child came into the orphanage" and the payment of fees.

Gerry Fuller
 202 663-2928

From: Alexander, Eric M (Hanoi)
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 5:27 AM
To: Fuller, Gerry W; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dickey, Gordon J; Gorsky, Jeffrey H; Brown, Melissa A; Furuta-Toy, Julie A; Saint-Victor, Marc; Russell, Mary Ann X (Ho Chi Minh City)
Subject: RE: JCICS

Gerry,



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Eric

From: Fuller, Gerry W
Sent: Friday, February 15, 2008 5:01 AM
To: Bond, Michele T; Bernier-Toth, Michelle; Dickey, Gordon J; Gorsky, Jeffrey H; Brown, Melissa A; Furuta-Toy, Julie A; Saint-Victor, Marc; Alexander, Eric M (Hanoi); 'Valverde, Michael'
Subject: RE: Conference Call on Vietnam

I just received a phone call from Tom DiFilippo of JCICS with two items of importance to our conference call tomorrow.

First: JCICS is publishing their **Standards of Practice** today. (I've copied them below.) He said it would be available on his website soon. He told me that there was "some resistance" and they were delayed until their Lawyers said they were o.k. (with an added paragraph that indicates the standards are voluntary.) Tom promised to make every effort to make these standards stick.

Second: Tom made it clear that **JCICS and NCFIA do not see eye-to-eye on Vietnam**. In fact, he said that there had been a long meeting to come to an agreement, and they basically at the end agreed to disagree.

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According to DiFilipo (and I emphasize that I heard only one side of the story), Tom Atwood of NCFA does not believe the Standards of Practice will improve the adoption process in Vietnam and does intend to support them. DiFilipo characterized the upcoming NCFA trip to Vietnam (they are requesting a meeting with Eric for Feb 28 in Hanoi) as "a fact-finding trip" in which Atwood wants to document what NCFA believes is the real situation in Vietnam:

1. there are many children stuck in awful orphanages in Vietnam whose only real hope is international adoption;
2. the USG is not helping, but in fact hindering these children from finding and going to "forever homes."

The DiFilipo version differs from what Chuck Johnson indicated to me earlier in the day as the NCFA position. ("Chuck Johnson of NCFA told me that NCFA strongly supports State Department and USCIS efforts to insist on high ethical standards of international adoptions, but he also wants to see the State Department advocating on behalf of International Adoption.")

I do not know the truth. However, it does seem clear there is a disagreement between the two organizations. We'll need to be sensitive to that difference during the call and recognize that there is not a unified voice that represents the Adoption Service community. It will be interesting to see what comes out when the topic of the Standards of Practice comes up.

Gerry Fuller
202 663-2928



Joint Council Announcement

Program International Relations Initiative
Date February 14, 2008
Regarding **Vietnam Standards of Practice**

Dear Colleagues,

Joint Council is pleased to present the Joint Council Standards of Practice for Intercountry Adoption in Vietnam (Standards) for your review and consideration.

Historical Origin

Initiated at the Joint Council Vietnam Summit in November 2007, these Standards are an important part of Joint Council's ongoing efforts to ensure that intercountry adoption remains a viable, ethical and legal option for orphaned and vulnerable children in Vietnam. The 32 year history of Joint Council is built upon the benefits of collaboration, a call for ethical practice and a demand for excellence in the provision of services to children. We believe that these Standards are a proud continuation of the Joint Council legacy.

The Best Interest of Children

Both the mission of Joint Council and the Vietnam Standards of Practice have at their core the best interest of children. This and other core values are further detailed in the Preamble to the Standards.

A Collaborative Effort

The Standards were conceived, written and revised through a collaborative effort including a five member Vietnam Ad Hoc Committee, an eight member Vietnam Study Group, the Vietnam Caucus (including Co-chairs), Joint Council staff and the 40+ participants of the Vietnam Summit. To ensure that all voices were incorporated into the Standards, we also extended the comment period and implementation date on three occasions.

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We extend our appreciation to the over 30 organizations that provided written input during the open comment period, to the members of the various committees, to all who offered their valued input and to the Joint Council Board of Directors for their vote of support of the Standards. We extend special thanks to Ethica and other advocacy groups such as Parents for Ethical Adoption Reform (PEAR) and Equality for Adopted Children (EACH) for bringing their unique perspectives to these Standards.

A Dynamic Instrument

The Standards are intended to be a living reflection of the principles by which all signatories serve the children and families of Vietnam. As such, Joint Council will continue to lead the community in achieving compliance in the short and long term. Similarly, the Standards will undergo periodic revisions as new challenges are faced and research developed. We encourage all signatories to remain actively engaged in the process of revising, defining and complying with the Standards. Specific information related to future development of the Standards can be found in the Appendix.

Signatories

While the Standards are an extension of the Joint Council Standards of Practice, these specific Standards are available to all Joint Council Member Organizations and non-Member organizations licensed in Vietnam. We ask that both Member Organizations and non-Member organizations review and consider the attached Vietnam Standards of Practice. Licensed adoption services providers may confirm their status as a Joint Council Vietnam Standards of Practice Signatory no later than close-of-business Monday, February 25, 2008. Please confirm this information directly with Joint Council Child Advocacy Program Manager Adam Schlicht at adams@jcics.org.

As a signatory of Joint Council's Vietnam Standards of Practice, your organization is demonstrating a mutual commitment to encouraging the long-lasting continuation of ethical and transparent Vietnamese adoptions. As President & CEO of Joint Council, I encourage all adoption service providers to endorse these Standards and to serve the children and families of Vietnam according to its tenets.

International Relations

As part of Joint Council's relationship with the Vietnam Department of International Adoption (DIA) and with due consideration of the DIA's authority, Joint Council will respectfully present the Vietnam Standards of Practice, including signatory organizations, to officials at the DIA and Vietnamese provincial authorities the first week of March. Additionally, these Standards and signatories will be presented to the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Citizenship and Immigration Services, all Joint Council Member Organizations, members of the larger adoption community and the public via the Joint Council website.

We again thank all who contributed to this historic effort and look forward to working with you to ensure that intercountry adoption remains a viable, legal and ethical option for children in need.

Best Wishes,

Tom

Thomas J DiFilipo
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