

5-11

090603 Msg to Grace A. Pruitt at Hope Adoption Agency US office

Dear Ms Pruitt:

**RELEASED IN FULL**

I am writing to advise you that for future adoption cases brought to our Consular Section by Hope, we would like to review the cases in advance of the interview date and before the adoptive parents travel to Ethiopia. My staff has worked with your Ethiopia-based staff over the past months to help them improve the cases they bring to us, to ensure that they are complete and documentarily qualified, and that all required procedures have been met by the time they arrive for the interview. We have seen some improvement in this regard. However, more troubling for me is that often when Hope staffers are asked detailed questions about how a child came to be available for adoption, the Hope staffer is at a loss to explain. For this reason I have decided we need to review all of Hope's cases in advance of the interview and ideally before the court date. My intention is not to cause Hope undue hardship, but rather to gain the level of confidence in cases that we need to be able to approve cases at the window. We do not want to have to delay cases at the point of interview, when the adopting parents are here and when delays are most difficult for everyone involved.

We will convey the same message to your local staff and instruct them to coordinate with our section so that we have a chance to review cases before the adoptive parents are invited to travel. I look forward to your cooperation in this regard.

Regards,  
Paul Cantrell  
Consular Section Chief,  
U.S. Embassy, Addis Ababa

**REVIEW AUTHORITY: Robert Strand, Senior Reviewer**

090616 Msg sent to Hope local office

Addressees:

'Hope\_faith12@yahoo.com'

'graceapruitt@yahoo.com'

'HopeAdoption@hotmail.com'

'Info@hopeadoptionagency.org'

Dear Mr. Shimelis and Ms. Rahel:

I am following up on a message that I sent to Ms. Grace Pruitt on June 3 and to ask your cooperation in helping the Consular Section get a more clear understanding about the cases you bring us.

For future adoption cases brought to our Consular Section by Hope, we would like to review the cases **in advance of the interview date and before the adoptive parents travel to Ethiopia**. My staff has worked with your staff over the past months to help improve the cases Hope brings to us, to ensure that cases are complete and documentarily qualified, and that all required procedures have been met by the time they arrive for the interview. We have seen some improvement in this regard. However, more troubling for me is that often when Hope staffers are asked detailed questions about how a child came to be available for adoption, the Hope staffer is at a loss to explain. For this reason I have decided we need to review all of Hope's cases **in advance of the interview and ideally before the court date**. My intention is not to cause Hope undue hardship, but rather to gain the level of confidence in cases that we need to be able to approve cases at the window. We do not want to have to delay cases at the point of interview, when the adopting parents are here and when delays are most difficult for everyone involved.

Thank you in advance for coordinating with my staff so that we have a chance to review cases before the adoptive parents are invited to travel. I look forward to your cooperation in this regard.

Regards,  
Paul Cantrell  
Consular Section Chief,  
U.S. Embassy, Addis Ababa