



Press Release, 8 March 2001

Acton Burnell Wins Department of State Contract to Develop Regulations for the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000.

Acton Burnell, Inc., an Alexandria, Virginia-based Information Management consulting firm, announced today the award of a contract to develop regulations that establish the standards and procedures to be used to accredit agencies and approve persons who provide international adoption services. The Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (HR 2909) was signed into law in October, 2000, setting forth the plan for implementation in the United States of the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Hague Convention). The Department of State has the primary responsibility in the United States. Acton Burnell will provide the final regulations for consideration by the Department of State by July 31, 2001. The proposed rules will then be published in the Federal Register.

A website has been established for this project, www.hagueregs.org. It provides details about the process established in conjunction with the Department of State's Office of Children's Issues. This process describes the means by which the Acton Burnell Team will be soliciting information and input from service providers, advocacy and national organizations, and other interested parties. The website also includes a survey by which interested parties can provide input and information concerning a public meeting to be held on April 2, 2001.

Additional information about the Hague Convention is available at www.hcch.net/e/conventions/menu33e.html and the legislation is available through the Library of Congress at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.html>.

For more information about the project, contact Elaine Stricklett at 703-671-0700, extension 129 or send an email to estricklett@actonb.com. For more information about Acton Burnell, Inc., visit www.actonb.com.

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