

NEW STEP TO COMPLETE WHILE IN DELHI DURING ADOPTION TRAVEL

FOR: ADOPTIVE PARENTS (NOT adoptees!!)

OBTAINING THE FRRO NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE

As of mid-January 2016, India's Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO) in Delhi is now requiring adoptive parents to obtain an exit permission before the adoptive parents depart India with their adopted child. This is NOT an exit permit for your child. Your child will have already been cleared by CARA, USCIS, and the U.S. Embassy. The FRRO is calling this a No Objection Certificate for the adoptive parents. This will be shown to officials at the airport, upon request, when you depart India.

DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS EVEN IF ONE PARENT HAS AN INDIAN PASSPORT?

There has been conflicting information from the FRRO officials on this, so it is recommended that you call the FRRO office and inquire. If you do receive the answer "no", then make sure you get the phone number and name of the FRRO official with whom you spoke.

WHEN DOES THIS STEP HAPPEN?

You can only complete this step after your child has been issued the Visa by the U.S. Embassy after the Visa Interview. (See WHAT DO I DO AT THE FRRO TO COMPLETE THIS STEP for the best timing of this step.)

HOW CAN I PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME FOR THIS STEP?

- **IN INDIA:** It is suggested that you reach out to the FRRO about a week before the visa appointment to find out what documents the FRRO will need. Contact information for the FRRO is as follows:
 - FRRO Phone numbers: +(91) (11) 2671-1074, **2671-1443 (recommended)**, 2671-1348
 - FRRO email : frrodli.support@nic.in OR frrodli.support@gov.in
- **IN INDIA:** Prior to your visit to the FRRO office, and if it has been okayed by the FRRO, you can apply for the FRRO NOC via an online submission which could include a scan of your photograph. (Scan a photograph to your email prior to departing from the U.S.!)
- **IN INDIA:** The FRRO will request the submission of a **Schedule C** with the application for the FRRO NOC. The Schedule C is a standard form that hotels provide to confirm the residence of their guests. You can obtain this from your hotel. If you are not staying at a hotel and are instead, staying at a relative or friend's home, you must obtain a notarized letter ("stamped letter" as it is commonly called in India) from the host stating his/her name, address, names of the adoptive parents(s) and dates that the adoptive parent(s) stayed at the home.
- **IN INDIA and IN U.S.:** Other documents for you to have with you in hard copies are: Article 23 letter (also called: Conformity Certificate), CARA NOC for your child, the Indian Written Court Order, Schedule C from your hotel, one passport picture of yourself, a printout of your flight itinerary, and the application form (you can do the form ahead of time online or complete one at the office).

WHERE DO I GO TO COMPLETE THIS PART OF THE PROCESS?

The FRRO is located in Delhi. Please see below as to the address and contact information:

Foreigners Regional Registration Office
East Block VIII Level II
Sec 1, R K Puram, Delhi 110066

Phone numbers: +(91) (11) 2671-1074, 2671-1443, 2671-1348

WHAT DO I BRING WITH ME WHEN I GO TO COMPLETE THIS STEP?

Based on the recent experiences of families who have gone through this process, the FRRO office has asked for some or all of the following. Please have all of the following with you when you visit the FRRO office. Submit the item **ONLY** if you are requested to do so as part of the application for the FRRO NOC.

- ☐ Copy of Article 23 letter
- ☐ CARA NOC for your child
- ☐ the Indian Written Court Order
- ☐ Schedule C from your hotel (see **HOW CAN I PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME FOR THIS STEP?** for details on this form)
- ☐ Copy of adoptive parent(s) passport(s) and visa(s)
- ☐ Copy of the child's passport and visa
- ☐ Application form (you can fill out online or at the FRRO office)
- ☐ Copy of Marriage Certificate
- ☐ a printout of your flight itinerary
- ☐ passport sized photograph(s) of the adoptive parent(s)
- ☐ Have Indian cash with you because you may need to pay for copies, etc. and there could be a 150 INR charge for the printing out and/or typing up of your application.

WHAT DO I DO AT THE FRRO TO COMPLETE THIS STEP

- **DAY 1:** *This can be done PRIOR to the child receiving the visa stamp in the passport from the U.S. Embassy, but it is helpful if there is less than a week between your first visit to the FRRO and the second visit to the FRRO. Accordingly, a good time to do the first visit to the FRRO is right after the visa interview. You will not have the visa yet for the child, but you can arrange and prepare everything else with the office and then be ready for the appointment the following day when you can bring the child's visa stamped passport with you (after you've picked it up from the Embassy.)*
 - There are a couple of men sitting at computers at the back end of the large room (under the green awning) as you enter the FRRO office. These men will get your FRRO NOC application form typed and printed for you for 150 Indian Rupees (INR). Have **all** of your documents with you. (See WHAT DO I BRING WITH ME WHEN I GO TO COMPLETE THIS STEP? above.)
 - Request that the submission be made to the most senior officer on duty at the time.
 - Once the application is complete, you show it all to an officer who will give you an appointment date/time for the next day.
 - You should be prepared to spend an extended period of time at the FRRO office as nothing moves fast.
- **DAY 2-3**
When you go back to the FRRO for the appointment, you must have the child's visa already

stamped on his/her Indian passport. Once you submit everything to the senior officer on the day of your appointment, you will be asked to come back and collect the FRRO NOC. The earliest they will give you this FRRO NOC (exit permit) is the next day.

HOW LONG DOES THIS STEP TAKE?

Based on what we are hearing from families across U.S. agencies, this process can take 3-5 business days. It is known that some families have completed the process in the same day.

WHERE CAN I GO FOR MORE INFORMATION OR HELP?

- The India pages of the adoption.state.gov website has a post to advise families of the FRRO protocol.
- The Immigrant Visa Section of the U.S. Embassy provides a more detailed notice along with the FRRO contact information to your family when your visa interview appointment is confirmed by the U.S. Embassy (prior to your travel to India)
You can contact the U./s. Embassy in New Delhi directly with any issues or concerns.
email: NDAdopt@state.gov
- In case of an emergency involving a U.S. Citizen, please call the 24-hour operator at (+91-11) 2419-8000 and ask for American Citizen Services.

HELPFUL HINTS FROM OTHER FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN THROUGH THIS STEP

- The child IS NOT getting the exit permit; the child has already been cleared for travel. No other children need the FRRO NOC/exit permit either. ONLY THE PARENTS are getting the FRRO NOC.
- If you are getting contradictory messages or are having difficulty, please ask to speak with the most senior official on duty. Please use Hindi to make this request, as you are able.
- It is important for you to stay flexible with your plans in Delhi and make sure you have flight tickets that can be amended in case of unforeseen circumstances.
- The FRRO may need to do a direct confirmation with CARA to confirm that the case and documents are correct.