

International Social Service - USA



BRINGING RESOLUTION
ACROSS BORDERS

ISS-USA MISSION

*The mission of ISS-USA is to
promote resolutions in the best
interests of children, adults
and families separated by
international borders.*

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PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

International Social Service is a non-profit organization founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1924. Its initial purpose was to offer services to families who were separated by migration to America from Europe and the Middle East. Since then, ISS has developed into a global network of national branches, affiliated bureaus and correspondents in 140 countries on five continents. ISS offers professional legal and social services to help resolve intercountry problems that affect children, families and other vulnerable individuals around the world.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The work of ISS is guided by international conventions that govern the protection of children and families, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Hague Conventions on international adoption, abduction and child protection.

ISS-USA KEY SERVICE AREAS

- Providing [Repatriation Assistance](#) to U.S. citizens in times of personal or global crisis.
- Conducting [Intercountry Home Studies/Post-placement Reports](#) for the purpose of placing a child in a home overseas.
- Undertaking [Family Tracings](#) to locate and reunite families across international borders.
- Carrying out [Document Searches](#) (birth and death certificates, marriage licenses, criminal background checks).
- [Certifying Intercountry Home Studies](#) for the purpose of international adoption.

RESEARCH AND TRAINING

In 2007 ISS-USA launched the Arthur C. Helton Institute for the Study of International Social Service. The Institute's mission is to [conduct research](#), [provide training](#), and [offer technical assistance](#) to legal and social service professionals on a range of important issues that affect vulnerable children separated from their families across international borders.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

- In 2009, ISS-USA served 3363 individuals, 798 were children, 2565 adults. Specifically, ISS-USA provided repatriation assistance to 488 American citizens returning to 48 states from 78 countries, 166 were children.
- ISS-USA provided intercountry services to 1915 individuals. About half of the new intercountry cases were referred by ISS units. ISS provided technical assistance to 560 individuals. More than half of the inquiries came in via the ISS website. People asked most often about tracings, home studies, and other information related to ISS services.
- 70% of all services provided by ISS pertain to the welfare of children.
- ISS provided training for 400 individuals in 2009. Training was provided through teleconferences and webinars, national and international conferences, and the ISS Institute Annual Conference.



PLEASE CONTACT ISS-USA AT WWW.ISS-USA.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SERVICES, TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. PLEASE VISIT OUR NEW BLOG!