

October 15, 2008

Dear Kazakhstan Adoptive Families,

Within the last couple of weeks there have been some developments regarding the processing of MAPS' agency registration application with the Kazakhstan Embassy in Washington, DC. As you may recall, MAPS submitted our application to the Kazakhstan Embassy the 3rd week in August 2008. The deadline to submit the application was September 15, 2008.

On October 3, 2008, JCICS (Joint Council on International Children's Services) shared with member agencies an announcement regarding adoption agency registration status at the Kazakhstan Embassy in Washington, DC. Please visit the JCICS website to view the announcement: <http://www.jcics.org/Kazakhstan.htm>

MAPS is pleased to announce that we have successfully registered with the Kazakhstan Embassy in Washington, DC as an adoption agency that can process adoptions from Kazakhstan. We have already provided our list of our in-country facilitators to the Embassy of Kazakhstan and we look forward to traveling to Washington DC in the near future to meet the Ambassador and discuss the adoption process in Kazakhstan.

MAPS has informed that we will be assigned to process adoptions dossiers through the Consulate of Kazakhstan in New York. It appears that approximately a ½ dozen agencies will be submitting to the Consulate of Kazakhstan in New York and the remainder will be assigned to submit through the Embassy in Washington, DC. MAPS has been asked to meet with the Consular General in New York at the end of November to go over specifics regarding dossier processing through their office. MAPS is anticipating that there may be slight changes to the dossier requirements and will inform families of any changes in the dossier requirements after our meeting in November. Hopefully there will be no significant changes.

Even more pressing news concerning the program, the Consulate of Kazakhstan stated that adoption agencies will only be allowed to submit 1 dossier per month.

We are hopeful that we will have a better understanding of the current situation and will advise families accordingly about the program in the coming weeks.

For further information, please contact Libby Walch directly at 207-775-4101 or libbyw@mapsadopt.org