

## **Scope of Practice: Uganda Program**

### **Adoption ARK**

Adoption ARK is not a registered adoption service provider in Uganda. There are no adoption agencies registered in Uganda.

Adoption Ark works with an attorney in Uganda (an independent contractor). It is the responsibility of the family to make decision about working with the specific attorney or not.

Uganda is a developing adoption program.

- Provides initial adoption consultation
- Reviews program requirements with prospective adoptive parents
- Provides dossier instructions and dossier forms to prospective adoptive parents
- Assists with dossier preparation
- Reviews the home study
- Assists with USCIS process, providing step by step instructions
- Coordinates dossier shipment, translation and submission to Uganda authorities
- Communicates with the in country coordinator who receives information on available child or children from Uganda authorities
- Provides available information to adoptive family
- Assists with travel logistics, helps with arranging lodging if requested by adoptive family, transportation and translation
- Provides assistance while the family is traveling through foreign coordinator and provides the emergency contact in US
- Helps prepare parents for the American Embassy appointment prior to travel
- Provides post-adoption support, collects post-placement reports and submits them to the Uganda authorities
- **Adoption Ark does not refer or place children for adoption**

### **Homestudy Agency**

- Interviews the prospective parents
- Obtains clearances, background information, medical reports, references on the perspective adoptive parents and etc...
- Writes homestudy report and grants adoption approval (at State level)
- Provides post Adoption, post placement supervision

### **Department of Homeland Security/USCIS /US Embassy overseas**

- Reviews homestudy and conducts a more comprehensive background check
- Issues approval for international adoption (at Federal level)
- Investigates the child orphan status
- Issues a US visa

### **Foreign Attorney**

- Coordinates communication and information among Uganda Social Welfare Officer, court, US agency and adoptive family
- Collects necessary paperwork on the child from Foreign government officials and medical center
- Assists family with travel logistics within the country
- Obtains permits from all relevant organizations
- Assists in submitting documents for court
- Represents clients in court
- Assists with preparation for the American Embassy interview

**Role of Government** (from the Department of State's website)

**Role of The Adoption Authority:** The Department of Youth and Child Affairs oversees Probation and Social Welfare Officers assigned to magistrate courts. Prospective adoptive parents work with the Probation and Social Welfare Officers in the region where the child resides. These officers monitor and record the progress of the adoptive family during the 36-month fostering period.

**Role of The Court:** Foreign citizens wishing to adopt a child in Uganda are required to file a petition with the High Court of Uganda after they have identified a child they wish to adopt. When filing the petition, prospective adoptive parents should ensure the petition states clearly their intention for the child to immigrate to the United States and that they seek to subsequently adopt the child in the United States. Prospective adoptive parents are required to appear in person, and the court requires that the local Probation and Social Welfare Officer overseeing the case submit a report with his/her recommendation. In certain cases, the court may also request that other individuals or authorities submit a report in respect to the adoption petition. For instance, in many cases orphanage directors are requested to submit information about children that were placed in their care.

**Due to the nature of international adoption, all information contained herein is subject to change without notice.**