

# International Adoption Legal Research Guide

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### I. Primary Resources

#### A. Introduction

The primary law listed below is based on recent developments in American foreign and domestic policy. The United States ratified the [Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption](#) ("Intercountry Adoption Convention" or "Convention"). The Convention went into effect in the United States on April 1, 2008. The Convention's provisions apply to all adoptions from countries that are convention signatories. The Convention also applies to all intercountry adoptions from the United States (as a practical matter, these are mainly to Convention signatories Mexico and Canada).

#### B. Print Materials

1. Child Citizenship Act of 2000 (USA). (8 U.S.C. §§1101, 1182, 1227, 1431-1433; 18 U.S.C. 611, 1015)
2. Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (USA). (42 U.S.C. §§14901, 14902, 14911-14914, 14921-14924, 14931, 14932, 14941-14944, 14951-14954)
3. *Internal and Intercountry Adoption Laws*. Kluwer Law International, 1996-current. Law Library Stacks K704 .I58 1996.
4. *International Encyclopedia of Laws. Family and Succession Law*. Kluwer Law International, 1997-current. Law Library Stacks K48 .I582 1997.

## C. Electronic and Online Materials

1. [Constitutions of the Countries of the World](#) (Oceana, subscription database). Available on the [University of Iowa Law Library Electronic Resources Homepage](#). Constitutions of the Countries of the World providing excellent coverage of both current constitutions (titles highlighted in yellow) and historical constitutions. In addition, many country entries also offer well-written introductory notes on the country's legal system, and a bibliography of the country's legal materials.
2. [CornellLII](#) (Cornell Legal Information Institute) (Resources for American State and Federal Law and International and Comparative Law)
3. [Foreign Law Guide: Current Sources of Codes and Basic Legislation in Jurisdictions of the World](#) (American Association of Law Libraries, subscription database). Available on the [University of Iowa Law Library Electronic Resources Homepage](#). Foreign Law Guide follows a template to provide information on the primary and secondary legal resources of most countries of the world. Each entry also contains introductory information on each country's legal system.
4. [Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption](#)
5. [Law Library of Congress International Law Resources](#)
6. [Law Library of Congress Nations of the World Legal Resources](#)
7. [Law Library of Congress US Federal Legal Resources](#)
8. [Law Library of Congress US State Legal Resources](#)
9. Martindale-Hubbell US State Law Digests and International Law Digests. These formerly were printed as additional volumes to the annual Martindale-Hubbell set. However, for the last two years they've been issued on CD-ROM. The dedicated terminal for accessing these digests is the far right carrel directly behind the Law Library Reference Desk on the second floor.
10. Ministries of Justice of Individual Countries (Sample Search: "China ministry justice"). Sometimes the ministries of justice offer English translations of civil and criminal codes and/or important legislation.
11. [US State Department](#).

12. US Embassy Websites in Countries With High Rates of Intercountry Adoptions (examples given below; search "US embassy [country name] to find embassies not listed below):
  - a. [China--US Embassy in Beijing](#)
  - b. [Guatemala--US Embassy in Guatemala City](#)
  - c. [Russian Federation--US Embassy in Moscow](#)
  - d. [South Korea--US Embassy in Seoul](#)
  - e. [Ukraine--US Embassy in Kiev](#)

## II. Secondary Resources

### A. Print Treatises

1. *Adoption Law Institute 2005*. Practising Law Institute (New York), 2005. Law Library Stacks KF545 .A29 2005.
2. Jasper, Margaret C. *The Law of Adoption*. Oceana, 2005. Law Library Stacks KF545 .J37 2008.
3. Kritzer, Herbert M., editor. *Legal Systems of the World: A Political, Social, and Cultural Encyclopedia*. ABC-CLIO, 2002. Law Library Reference K48 .L44 2002.
4. Stark, Barbara. *International Family Law: An Introduction*. Ashgate, 2005. Law Library Stacks K670 .S73 2005

### B. Journals

1. Blair, D. Marianne. *Safeguarding the Interests of Children in Intercountry Adoption: Assessing the Gatekeepers*. 34 Cap. U. L. Rev. 349 (2005).
2. Crook, John R., editor. *United States Ratifies Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption*. 102 A.J.I.L. 194 (2008).
3. Hansen, Mary Eschelbach. *The Regulation of Intercountry Adoption*. 45 Brandeis L. J. 105 (2006).
4. Hansen, Mary Eschelbach and Daniel Pollack. *Trade-offs in Formulating a Consistent National Policy on Adoption*. 46 Fam. Ct. Rev. 366 (2008).
5. Smolin, David M. *Intercountry Adoption and Poverty: A Human Rights Analysis*. 36 Cap. U. L. Rev. 413 (2007).