

How to Effectively Advocate for Congressional Support for your Family's Adoption Case

Congressional offices typically receive hundreds of requests for constituent support each year. To help your case stand out and enlist the support you need, National Council For Adoption recommends the following:



Visit adoptioncouncil.org/legislators to locate your members of Congress and their contact information.



Call the district office closest to you and ask to speak to the staff member in charge of constituent support for intercountry adoption/immigration issues.



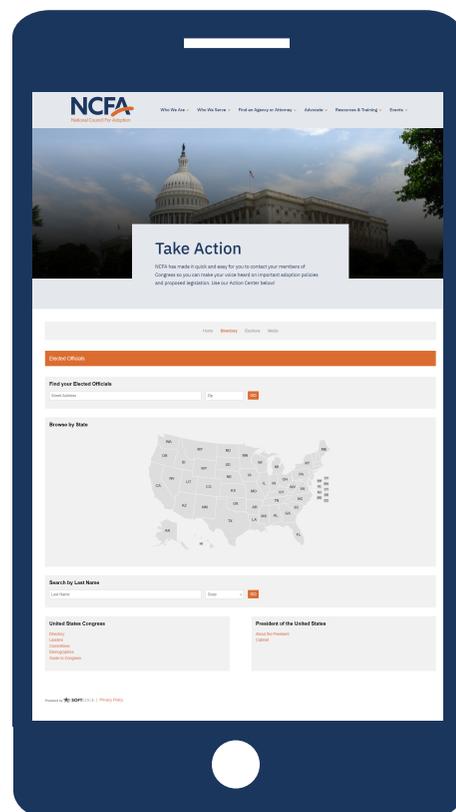
Explain your family's case and request their email address so you can send the one-page brief in follow up.



Use the one-page brief to guide your conversation. Conclude the call by indicating that you will be following up by email and ask when you can expect to receive an update from the office.



Send the one-page brief by email and postal mail.



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Photo

Always include a family/child photo to help the office put a face with a name. Consider sending a physical photo, paper clipped to the top of the hard copy version of this letter that you mail to the office.



Title

Family name, address, phone number, email, USCIS case number

Martin Family
123 Main Street (555) 123-6789
Alpharetta, GA 12345 martinfamily@email.com

Case Number: 987654

Subtitle

Summarize the status of your case highlighting the urgency of the situation, child's needs, etc.

Adopted Sam in Nigeria in 2019. Waiting two years for U.S. government paperwork to be processed so Sam can come home to his family in Georgia. Sam has a degenerative muscular condition for which he urgently needs surgery, medication, and therapeutic treatment.

Timeline

Key steps in the process, bolding how long the family has been waiting at the most recent step

This is the process we've gone through:

1. _____
2. _____
3. **THE MOST RECENT STEP - WAITING TWO YEARS**

Touchpoints

List how frequently you have made inquiries and to whom (give specific names if you can). Give quoted examples of responses that you have found unsatisfactory.

We have contacted the following people about this issue:

1. Spoke with NAME by email on DATE who said:

Family Impact

In a couple of sentences, summarize the emotional and financial harms to your family and child (particularly if the child has remained in an institution/orphanage, has medical needs, the emotional impact of not having permanency, etc.)

How this has impacted our family:

Medically: _____

Emotionally: _____

Financially: _____

The Ask

What is it that you want your Senator or Representative to do on your behalf?

We need the Senator's help.

We request that SENATOR / REPRESENTATIVE inquire with USCIS about our case, urging them to adjudicate with expediency and provide us with more specific, substantive communication.

We request prompt updates from the office so that we can coordinate follow up efforts with the appropriate offices.