

Guatemala adoption rules tying up U.S. couples  
Based on an article found in the *Salt Lake Tribune*

Rodriguez, Olga R. (2007) Guatemala adoption rules tying up U.S. couples. *The Salt Lake Tribune*, November 21<sup>st</sup>, A9.

From 1996 to 2005 only 95 Guatemalan children were adopted by U.S. parents; in 2006 that number jumped to 4, 135 Guatemalan children. Now a million dollar business, the adoption rate between Guatemala and the U.S. means that 1 in 100 Guatemalan children are raised in the U.S. In a process that is notoriously slow the adoption of a Guatemalan child can take as little as 9 months at a cost of around \$30,000.

This has now changed. Because neither the Guatemalan government nor the U.S. was abiding by the rules adopted under the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoptions several thousand adoptions have been put on hold. Put on hold because no one knows how many of the children were legally given up by their mothers, a process that must now be verified for any future and existing adoptees still in Guatemala. The U.S. wants to push through the 3,100 cases that are now in limbo, but 1,000 of those have turned up problems.

Are we in the U.S. so desperate to have that precious child; that item completes our collection of “must haves” that we are willing to risk taking someone else’s child?