



# VERMONT SERVICE CENTER STAKEHOLDERS NEWSLETTER

## View from the Director's Desk

### Spring 2011 Stakeholder Event

It was with great pleasure that I hosted our most recent national stakeholder meeting on May 6, 2011, at the USCIS New York City District Office. I brought several of the senior managers from the Vermont Service Center (VSC) so that they could speak on a range of topics, provide updated information; and answer questions from the stakeholders, which included representatives from NAFSA and AILA, Congressional Offices, Community based Organizations, and Non-governmental Organizations; as well as individuals who have filed applications with USCIS.

Attending with me, were: Karen FitzGerald, Acting Deputy Service Center Director, and Assistant Center Directors, Keith Canney, Donna Kane, Lisa Laroe, Michael Paul, Tracey Parsons, and Carrie Selby and they focused on the following topics:

- Employment-based petitions for L, O, P, and H visa classifications
- Family-based filings and the I-129 F fiancé /fiancée petitions
- Temporary Protected Status
- Student filings relating to the Form I-539, Change of Status and I-765 Employment Authorization Document.
- Customer Service issues and concerns

In addition, we had a guest speaker, Ms. Gerri Ratliff, Chief of the Office of Transformation Coordination, who provided an overview of the USCIS transformation initiative. Ms. Ratliff discussed the upcoming deployment of the Electronic Immigration System, ("ELIS"). She also answered questions and received important feedback from attendees about how this transformed business environment will impact stakeholders.

As a part of the event, the Service Center Director held a lunchtime session with representatives from Major League Sports; to include the Pro Golf Association, the Women's Pro Golf Association, Major League Baseball, Major League Soccer, the National Basketball Association, and Major League Hockey, all of whom file applications exclusively at the VSC. The discussion was a mutual exchange of information concerning the intricacies of these visa categories, current policies and procedures; and stakeholder issues and concerns.

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Summer in Stowe, Vt.

## How to get the most from a Service Request

When calling the National Customer Service Call Center to request a change of address to an application or petition that has already been filed, please provide the following information:

- ◆ The EAC or A number that is on the receipt notice or other notice we sent to you;
- ◆ Your new address;
- ◆ Your old address; and
- ◆ The names and biographical information for the person or persons for whom you have filed.

**\*When using the 1-800 number to make a service request you should always provide an email address if you have one as that is the fastest way to receive a response to your inquiry.**

## Safe and Secure Delivery of Immigration Documents

As many of you are aware, USCIS initiated the Secure Mail process to ensure that immigration documents are delivered to customers through the postal system in a safe, secure and timely manner. This means that employment authorization cards, permanent resident cards for lawful permanent residents and refugee travel documents are mailed to applicants using the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) Priority mail with Delivery Confirmation.

As a result, customers can now track their documents and receive documents 2-4 business days quicker than first class mail. Customer signatures are **not** required for delivery of documents.

Once USCIS Case Status Online indicates your case has been approved, you can call the USCIS Customer Service line at 1-800-375-5283. The customer service representative will provide you with your USPS tracking number and current USPS delivery status.

Immigration documents that are returned to the Vermont Service Center as undeliverable, either because of an incorrect address or an error that needs to be corrected, are resent to customers using this secure mail process.

**Contact the Vermont Service Center:**  
 U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
 Vermont Service Center  
 75 Lower Welden Street  
 St. Albans, VT 05479



## Inside the VSC—Division 1 (Family Based Immigration Forms)

This Division is managed by Michael Paul, Assistant Center Director, and includes six Supervisory Immigration Services Officers, and approximately 50 Immigration Services Officers. They are responsible for reviewing and adjudicating the following forms:

- Petition to Remove Conditions on Residence (Form I-751),
- Widow/Widower-related Petition for Amerasian, Widow (er) or Special Immigrant (Form I-360),
- Application for Waiver of Ground of Inadmissibility (Form I-601),
- Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission Into the United States After Deportation or Removal (Form I-212), and
- I-485 related Application for Employment Authorization (Form I-765)

### ***Wrong classification at time of Adjustment or Admission = MISCLASSIFIED!***

The spouse of a U.S. citizen is classified as a Conditional Permanent Resident (CPR) if the marriage that created the relationship occurred less than twenty-four months (2 years) prior to their admission or adjustment of status (approval of the I-485). If the marriage occurred two years or more before the time of admission or adjustment, then the applicant is classified as an Lawful Permanent Resident without conditions.

Division 1 regularly searches the electronic databases to identify when someone’s immigration status has been misclassified. This can happen when USCIS adjudicates the adjustment of status application, when the Department of State issues an immigrant visa overseas or by Customs and Border Patrol when someone enters the United States.

If an individual has been incorrectly classified as a Conditional Permanent Resident (CR1, CR2, CR6 or CR7), they should immediately call the NSCS hotline. Once USCIS has been made aware of the error, a notice will be sent with instructions to file an Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card (Form I-90), without fee, with the Nebraska Service Center.

### ***Late Filing of Form I-751 (Application to Remove Conditions )***

When an applicant is granted Conditional Resident (CR) status, that status is only valid for two years from the date it was granted. If the CR does not file their I-751 within 90 days prior to the expiration of that status, their legal immigration status can be terminated.

Because it is not always possible to file timely, please be aware that USCIS will accept a late filed application to remove conditions. Here are a few helpful hints.

- ◆ File as close as possible to the 2-year date.
- ◆ Be sure to include a letter explaining the reason you are filing untimely.
- ◆ Be sure the application is complete, with proper fee and signatures



### **Two-Minute Drill**

- Q. When filing a change of address for a VAWA/T&U case do I have to do both the AR-11 and either directly contact the VSC or make an InfoPass appointment at a Field Office?
- A. VSC will not change an address on a VAWA/T&U based on an AR-11 submission. VSC only changes an address based on written correspondence from the applicant or their representative.
- Q. Should I use the NCSC for a VAWA/T&U change of address request?
- A. No, NCSC will not entertain an address change for a VAWA/T&U based application or petition.



### **Events Diary**

During the month of June, the VSC participated in the following events:

- **June 16th** - VSC hosted a the Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) training (web-conference)
- **June 22nd** - Boston District Office and VSC hosted an LEA training and stakeholders event on VAWA, T and U-visas.
- **June 22nd** - Seattle District Office, the Portland Field Offices and the VSC conducted LEA training and a stakeholders meeting on VAWA, T and U-visas.
- **Upcoming: June 30th** - VSC will host a VAWA/T&U visas training (web-conference) **July 27th** –National Stakeholders Conference Call on Child Status Protection Act. **June 27th**— Philadelphia District Office and VSC conduct VAWA, T/U visa training.