



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

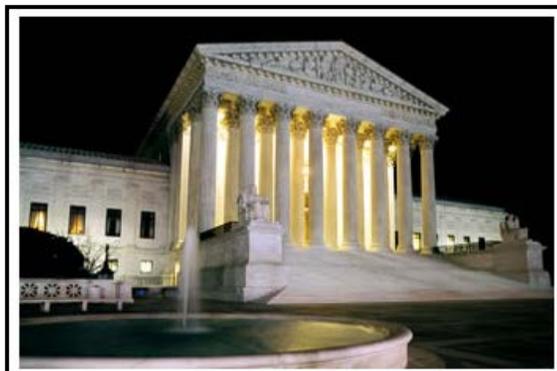
Straight from the Source

Immigration News from USCIS

July 2013

Table of Contents

1. **Implementing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)**
2. **“New and Improved” Immigration Forms**
3. **We’ve Redesigned Citizenship and Naturalization Certificates**
4. **Ten Tricks to Using ELIS**
5. **New Policy Memos**
6. **We Welcome Your Ideas**
7. **E-Verify Now Emails Employees of an Information Mismatch**
8. **We’ve Moved!**
9. **Upcoming National Engagements**



1. **Implementing the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)**

—On July 1, 2013, DHS Secretary Napolitano issued a statement on the Department’s [Implementation of the Supreme Court Ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act](#). She said “I have directed USCIS to review immigration visa petitions filed on behalf of a same-sex spouse in the same manner as those filed on behalf of an opposite-sex spouse.” For our most recent FAQs, click [here](#). For the State Department’s August 2 announcement about visa changes for same-sex couples, click [here](#). Our shortcut web address is www.uscis.gov/samesexmarriages. We

will share updates on DOMA as they becomes available.

2. **“New and Improved”**

Immigration Forms—We’re reformatting many of our forms to a 2-column, Adobe fillable format. When completed electronically, this format restricts incorrect entries and provides informational pop-up boxes to help customers. We’ve also simplified our instructions and

centralized filing at Lockbox facilities, which helps ensure fast, secure, and standard intake for more than 5 million filings each year. We are also revising our high-volume forms with 2D barcode technology. When you complete these forms using a computer, the barcode at the bottom of the page stores the data entered on the form. We scan the barcode and can upload the data directly to our systems, which reduces data entry errors and improves efficiency. Remember not to attach anything to or damage the barcode. The following forms have been revised as part of our Forms Improvement Initiative—I-102, I-90, I-601, N-336, N-600, I-140, N-470, G-28, G-1145, N-300, I-864, I-131, and I-129F. If you find a glitch in any of our forms, please send me an email and I will work to have it corrected.





3. We've Redesigned Citizenship and Naturalization Certificates—In early July, we began issuing redesigned citizenship and naturalization certificates to people who filed the following forms:

- Form N-561, Replacement Certificate of Citizenship
- Form N-570, Replacement Certificate of Naturalization
- Form N-578, Special Certificate of Naturalization
- Form N-645, Certificate of Citizenship (Posthumous)
- Form N-645A, Certificate of Citizenship (Posthumous)

The redesigned certificates incorporate state-of-the-art technology to deter counterfeiting, and facilitate quick and accurate authentication. These improvements are part of

our ongoing efforts to produce secure documents. The way people apply for and receive these revised documents has not changed, and certificates issued in the past remain valid.

4. Ten Tips for Using ELIS—Following these 10 simple tips will help you avoid unnecessary delays in processing your case filed with ELIS.



- **Submit all evidence the first time**—we may deny your request if you don't provide all initial required evidence
- **Fill in all data fields**—we may send you a Request for Evidence (RFE) if you don't
- **Email address**—the email address field is case sensitive. You cannot change your validated email address until after you submit a request.
- **Characters**—use only alphanumeric characters (A-Z, 0-9), hyphens (-), commas (,), and apostrophes ('). Do not use periods or dots (.).
- **Time-out**—the system times out after 5 minutes of inactivity, remember to save your work!
- **Display**—Large files may delay moving to the next screen. Press the F5 key to remove a gray screen from the PDF.
- **Spaces**—Do not enter spaces in the Postal Code, Apartment, or Suite # fields.
- **Attorneys & accredited representatives**—Do not exit until you complete the account set up or you will have to start over. If the system validated your email address before you completed your account set up, you must use a different email address to create a new account record.
- **View decision**—Attorneys and representatives can review a PDF of the final decision on a closed or decided case by selecting the “Notices” tab.
- **Mailing**—One benefit of ELIS is automatic upload of requested evidence. If you can't respond to an RFE electronically due to a technical issue, you can mail your documents. Please include your name, your ELIS Account ID number and your ELIS case receipt number (the letters IOE+10 digits) on the cover of any supporting documents. Mail the documents to: Vermont Service Center, Attn: USCIS ELIS, 75 Lower Welden Street, St. Albans, VT 05479 For technical support, check out our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or call our help desk at 1-800-375-5283 or 1-800-767-1833 (TDD).

5. New Policy Memos—USCIS issued and posted the following policy memos at: [www.uscis.gov>laws>policy memoranda](http://www.uscis.gov/laws/policy/memoranda)

- **July 3, 2013**—[Certification of Decisions to the Administrative Appeals Office \(AAO\)](#)
- **July 3, 2013**—[AAO Precedent and Non-Precedent Decisions](#)



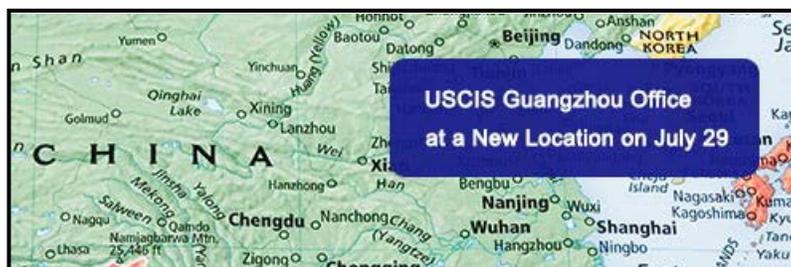
6. We Welcome Your Ideas—We’ve just launched an online feedback forum called USCIS Idea Community where you can share your thoughts on our customer service tools. USCIS Idea Community allows you to submit new ideas, vote on ideas posted by others (which gives it a score), and submit comments. To register, visit

www.uscisconnect.ideascale.com. Remember, USCIS Idea Community is not the place to ask questions about an immigration case. For case questions, please refer to the [Contact Us](#) section of our website.

7. E-Verify Now Emails Employees of an Information Mismatch—Our latest [enhancement](#) to E-Verify allows us to notify employees directly when there is an information mismatch. In the past, if there was a record mismatch, a Tentative Nonconfirmation (TNC) was issued to the employer, who was required to inform the employee. Now, if an employee voluntarily provides their email address on [Form I-9](#), E-Verify will notify the employee of a TNC at the same time it notifies the employer. This latest enhancement was made possible by a [recent revision](#) to [Form I-9](#), which added a space for employees to provide an email address. Employers are still required to notify all employees when there is an information mismatch and a TNC is received. E-Verify will also send reminder emails to employees if no action to resolve the TNC has occurred within 4 days of a decision to contest, and to notify them they may need to update a Social Security or DHS record.

8. We’ve Moved!—Beginning July 29, we will provide services in Guangzhou, China from a new facility at this address:

**U.S. Consulate General
Entrance at Huaxia Road near Zhujiang
New Town Metro Station Exit B1
Tianhe District
Guangzhou, China 510623**



Also, our office in Honduras closed on June 20. Honduras now falls under the jurisdiction of our office in San Salvador, El Salvador.



9. Upcoming National Engagements—We manage a comprehensive calendar of public engagements at www.uscis.gov/publicengagement. Click on the links below for details:

- **August 14, 2013**—We will host a web-based training for law enforcement agencies on [Immigration Relief for Victims of Human Trafficking](#) at 1:00 pm (Eastern time).
- **August 15, 2013**—We will host an engagement with the U.S. Department of State to discuss [Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition](#) at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern time).