U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS Update

October 16, 2007

USCIS REMINDS APPLICANTS TO APPLY FOR TRAVEL DOCUMENTS FOR HOLIDAY TRAVEL ABROAD BEFORE THE END OF OCTOBER

U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) anticipates an unusually high volume of requests for advance parole and other travel documents this winter, given the occurrence of three major religious observances- Christmas, Hanukkah, and Hajj during the month of December. USCIS urges applicants needing a travel document (Reentry Permit, Refugee Travel Document or Advance Parole) to file Form I - 131, *Application for Travel Document* (available online at www. uscis.gov), before the end of October 2007.

If you are applying for renewal of your advance parole document (I-512L or I-512), USCIS will accept and adjudicate a Form I-131 filed up to 120 days before the date your current advance parole expires. If you currently have a valid reentry permit or refugee travel document that will soon expire, you may obtain a new reentry permit or refugee travel document by filing Form I-131 and returning the current document to USCIS. A new Form I-131 may be filed regardless of the expiration date of your current reentry permit or refugee travel document.

Please Note:

If you have previously submitted an application to USCIS and have not received a receipt notice for this application, please visit www.uscis.gov/receiptingtimes for further information regarding advance parole. Individuals requesting advance parole must be approved before leaving the United States. Travel outside the United States without advance parole may result in serious consequences including being unable to return to the United States and having pending immigration-related applications denied. An asylum applicant who leaves the Untied States on advance parole and returns to the country of claimed persecution shall be presumed to have abandoned his or her asylum application absent compelling reasons for such return.

The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, stipulates that immigrants who depart the United States after being unlawfully present in the United States for certain periods can be barred from admission to lawful permanent resident status, evening if they have obtained advance parole. Those immigrants who have been unlawfully present in the United States for more than 180 days, but less than one year are inadmissible for three years; those who have been unlawfully present for a year or more are inadmissible for 10 years. Immigrants who are unlawfully present and depart the U.S. and subsequently reenter under a grant of parole, may nevertheless be ineligible to adjust their status.

USCIS recommends all immigrants with pending applications for adjustment of status check the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov, call USCIS National Customer Service at 800-375-5283, consult an immigration attorney or an immigration assistance organization accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals before making any foreign travel plans.

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