

VERMONT SERVICE CENTER STAKEHOLDERS NEWSLETTER

View from the Director's Desk

Volume 1, Issue 12

On June 27th the VSC was fortunate to host author and survivor, Theresa Flores. Ms. Flores, author of "A Slave Across the Street: The True Story of How an American Teenager Survived the World of Human Trafficking", shared the story of how she went from being the All-American, 15-year-old teenage girl next door, to being coerced and enslaved in the dangerous world of sex trafficking, while growing up in a-middle class suburb of Detroit.



As the Vermont Service Center has sole jurisdic-

tion for victim related casework, VAWA and T/U visa applications, Ms. Flores' lecture and the discussion that followed was an educational opportunity for the officers and staff that work with these case types. Ms. Flores shared with VSC staff how she has worked to heal the wounds of forced sexual servitude. She offered invaluable insight on how to prevent human trafficking and presented vital information on the nature of modern day human trafficking in America from a very personal perspective.

The Director of the VSC is committed to providing officers and staff with ongoing training and finding opportunities to demonstrate with real life examples how USCIS impacts the lives of victims of such serious crimes.

Ms. Flores also spoke at a "Lunch and Learn" event to which all VSC employees were invited. Later in the day, the VSC hosted a community event and training for local law enforcement agencies and the Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force.

SEVIS Documents for I-539 Student Filings

USCIS has now launched ELIS for public use and applicants will have the option of submitting their application by either using ELIS or the current paper filing. For applications filed with USCIS ELIS, USCIS will accept a scanned, electronic version of a valid and properly executed (signed by both parties) Form I-20 or DS-2019 for all Form I-539 filings when required.

For any Form I-539 filed outside USCIS ELIS, USCIS will accept a photocopy of a valid and properly executed Form I-20 or DS-2019. Original signatures on these two SEVIS forms will no longer be required to be submitted when filing a change of status to F, M or J or an F or M reinstatement.

Regardless of how the applicant files once USCIS ELIS launches for public use, USCIS will not return the Form I-20 or DS-2019 to the applicant upon approval of Form I-539.

Applicants wishing to have USCIS stamp their Form I-20 or DS-2019 may make an appointment online through InfoPass and take their form to their local USCIS office. Stamping of Form I-20s or DS-2019s is a transitional service that field offices will perform for 6 months after ELIS launches for public use.

News, Notes & What's Next!

August 1st & 2nd - The Vermont Service Center will travel to Denver, CO to provide victim related training for local District Office Immigration Service Officers. They will also participate in a stakeholder event for victims' advocates and provide training and information to local law enforcement agencies. Please contact the Denver District Office for information on how to attend these in-person events.

August 15th - The Vermont Service Center will host Webinar training for Law Enforcement on the issuance of the U certification. There will be a 45 minute presentation followed by an opportunity to answer any questions that come up as a result of the training. If interested please send your email address to **VSC Community Engagement.**

September 28th - The Vermont Service Center will host a Stakeholder/Open House Event. More information will be provided shortly!

AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 12071959. (Posted 07/19/12)



Submitting Foreign Documents with a Translations - 8 CFR 103.2(b)

The regulations for foreign documents states the following: Any document containing foreign language submitted to USCIS shall be accompanied by a full English language translation which the translator has certified as complete and accurate, and by the translator's certification that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English.

If you submit a document in any language other than English, you must include a full English translation. The translator must certify that the translation is complete and accurate, and that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language to English. Official extracts are acceptable, but only if they contain all the information necessary to make a decision on a case. Only extracts prepared by an authorized official (the "keeper of record") are acceptable. A summary of a document prepared by a translator is unacceptable. Failure to submit the appropriate translation will result in a request for evidence.

In some cases we receive the translation without a copy of the original foreign language document. If that occurs a request for evidence will be issued and you will be asked to send a photocopy of the full foreign language document or documents that correspond to the English translation submitted.

The name that I put on my Petition/Application is Not the Name on my Approval Document

The following guidance pertains to all I-129 petitions and I-539, I-765 and I-131 applications where there is a difference between the name the petitioner/applicant entered on the petition/application and the name shown on the alien's passport and/or visa. Petitioners and applicants should be aware that current USCIS guidance and Department of State directives state that for beneficiaries of these case types the beneficiary's name will be changed to the name on the passport, or visa if the visa was issued subsequent to the passport. The name on the approval document will reflect the name on the passport or visa.

How do I Upgrade an I-130?

Petitions for Alien Relative (Form I-130) are adjudicated based on a priority date and the status of the petitioner at the time of filing. Petitioners who file as a US Citizen have no priority date and are worked in date order once filed. Cases which are filed by LPRs must wait for the "priority date" to become available. In some cases the LPR petitioner becomes a United States Citizen before the I-130 is adjudicated.

The VSC has developed an electronic process to identify cases where the petitioner becomes a US Citizen based upon the petitioner's A number. If the scrape shows that the petitioner has naturalized, the case is upgraded and placed in the workflow according to the petitioner's naturalization date.

It is not necessary to send a copy of the naturalization certificate or to request an upgrade of a pending Form I-130. In addition, you should **never** send an original document, unless specifically requested to do so.

If the Form I-130 has been approved, you MUST notify the NVC of the change in the petitioner's status.

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

National Customer Service Center (NCSC): 1-800-375-5283