Important Announcement

On March 6, 2017, President Trump signed a new Executive Order on Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States which directs us to review current screening procedures, while protecting national security - our top priority when issuing visas.

We are working closely with the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice to ensure that we implement the Executive Order in accordance with its terms, in an orderly fashion, and consistent with any applicable court orders, with the objective of maximizing national security.

The Executive Order becomes effective 12:01 a.m. Eastern Time on March 16, 2017, providing time to make orderly operational adjustments. We will keep the public informed about changes affecting travelers to the United States.

We do not plan to cancel any previously scheduled visa appointments. After the new Executive Order goes into effect, any individual who believes he or she is eligible for a waiver or exemption should apply for a visa and disclose during the visa interview any information that might qualify the individual for a waiver/exemption. A consular officer will carefully review each case to determine whether the applicant is affected by the Executive Order, and, if so, whether the applicant qualifies.

The Executive Order provides specifically that no visas issued before the effective date of the Executive order will be revoked pursuant to the Executive Order, and it does not apply to nationals of affected countries who have valid visas on the date it becomes effective.

The order further instructs that any individual whose visa was marked revoked or cancelled solely as a result of the original Executive Order issued on January 27, 2017, (E.O. 13769) will be entitled to a travel document permitting travel to the United States, so that the individual may seek entry. Any individual in this situation who seeks to travel to the United States should contact the closest U.S. embassy or consulate to request a travel document.

The National Visa Center will continue to work on in-process cases for these applicants. You should continue to pay fees, complete your Form DS-260 immigrant visa applications, and submit your financial and civil supporting documents to NVC. NVC will review your case file and schedule a visa interview appointment if no additional paperwork is required. During the interview, a consular officer will carefully review the case to determine whether the applicant is affected by the E.O. and, if so, whether the case qualifies for a waiver.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: I received my immigrant visa but I haven’t yet entered the United States. Can I still travel there using my immigrant visa?

The Executive Order provides specifically that no visas issued before the effective date of the Executive order will be revoked pursuant to the Executive Order, and it does not apply to nationals of affected countries who have valid visas on the date it becomes effective.

Q: I recently had my immigrant visa interview at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate overseas, but my case is still being considered. What will happen now?
If your visa application was refused under Section 221(g) pending updated supporting documents or administrative processing, you should proceed to submit your documentation. After receiving any required missing documentation or completion of any administrative processing, the U.S. Embassy or Consulate where you were interviewed will contact you with more information.

Q: I am currently working on my case with NVC. Can I continue?

Yes. You should continue to pay fees, complete your Form DS-260 immigrant visa applications, and submit your financial and civil supporting documents to NVC. NVC will continue reviewing cases and scheduling visa interviews overseas. During the interview, a consular officer will carefully review the case to determine whether the applicant is affected by the E.O. and, if so, whether the case qualifies for a waiver.

Q: I sponsored my family member for an immigrant visa, and his interview appointment is after the effective date of the Order. Will he still be able to receive a visa?

The Executive Order provides several examples of categories of cases that may qualify for a discretionary waiver, to be considered on a case-by-case basis, if in the national interest entry would not threaten national security, and denial would cause undue hardship. Among the examples provided, a foreign national who seeks to enter the United States to reside with a close family member who is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (e.g., a spouse, child, or parent) may be considered for a waiver if the denial of entry during the suspension period would cause undue hardship.

An individual who wishes to apply for a waiver should apply for a visa and disclose during the visa interview any information that might qualify the individual for a waiver. A consular officer will carefully review each case to determine whether the applicant is affected by the E.O. and, if so, whether the case qualifies for a waiver.

Waiver decisions will be made by the consular officer abroad at the time of adjudication.

Q: I am applying for a K (fiancée) visa. My approved I-129 petition is only valid for four months. Can you expedite my case?

The National Visa Center already expedites all Form I-129F petitions to embassies and consulates overseas. Upon receipt of the petition and case file, the embassy or consulate will contact you with instructions on scheduling your interview appointment.

Q: If I pursue my immigrant visa but the consular officer determines that I do not qualify for a waiver, will my case be terminated? Can I apply again after 90 days have passed?

A consular officer will review each case to determine if the applicant is affected by the E.O. and, if so, whether the case qualifies for a waiver. If an applicant does not qualify for a waiver, you may reapply for an immigrant visa using the same approved petition after the 90-day period in the Executive Order has passed. At that time, you should contact the embassy or consulate directly to schedule a new interview.

Keep in mind that if your medical exam results have expired, you will be responsible for attending a new medical exam and paying any fees to the physician or clinic. Medical exam results are typically valid for six (6) months, although in some cases they may be valid for a shorter amount of time.

Q: My immigrant visa interview is after the effective date of the Order. If I want to wait until the 90-day period in the Order ends, can I cancel my immigrant visa interview?

Yes. If you receive an interview appointment, you may cancel it. Please follow the instructions provided online by the embassy or consulate where you are interviewing. Go to nvc.state.gov/interview and choose the name of the embassy or consulate from the drop-down box in Step 2. You can also find the embassy’s or consulate’s website listed on usembassy.gov. It will be your responsibility to contact the embassy or consulate when you are ready for an interview.

Remember that children of U.S citizens must enter the United States before they turn 18 years old; otherwise they lose the ability to automatically become a U.S. citizen under the Child Citizenship Act. Children of Lawful Permanent Residents who are issued a visa before turning 21 years of age must enter the United States before their 21st birthday to avoid losing immigrant status unless they are eligible for benefits under the Child Status Protection Act.

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