



# OLSEN LAW FIRM IMMIGRATION NEWSLETTER

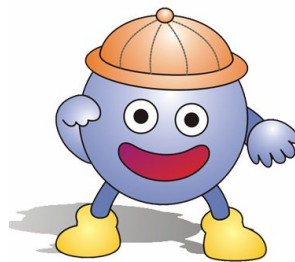
DECEMBER 2006

VOLUME 3

## In this issue:

VisaScreen Issue	2
Premium Processing for R-1 (Religious Worker) Update	2-3
Passport Requirement Update	3-4
USCIS Proposes Background Check Service	4-5
Quick Information Bytes	5

We welcome you to meet the Immis! They help us simplify the immigration process for you. The Immis are in every issue of our newsletter and act as your personal guides to various immigration topics.



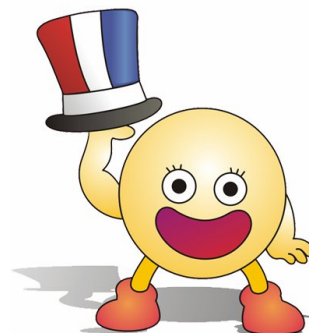
**Immi Jr.**

*Immi Jr. will address nonimmigrant issues*



**Immi**

*Immi will address immigrant issues*



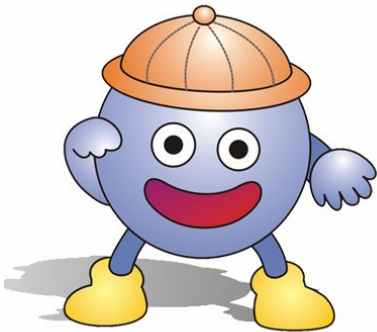
**Citizen Immi**

*Immi will address citizenship issues*

## USEFUL INFORMATION:

- Immigration Related Web Sites 7
- Olsen Law Firm Contact Information 8

# IMMEDIATE INFORMATIONAL RELEASES



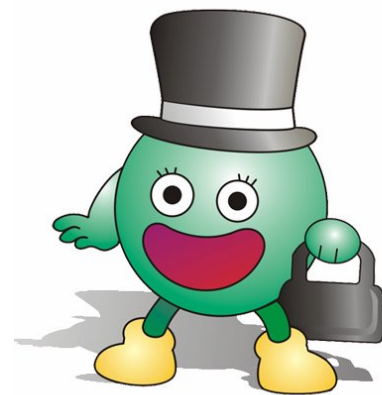
*Immi, Jr. says: CGFNS has found exam cheating in Philippines for RN VisaScreens.*

## **BLANKET VISASCREEN DENIAL POSSIBLE FOR CERTAIN FILIPINO NURSES**

**SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AILA)**

CGFNS may deny VisaScreens to all registered nurses with licenses based on the June 2006 licensing exam given by the Professional Regulation Commission in the Philippines. Widespread cheating has been reported with respect to the June 2006 exam. Consequently CGFNS is considering a blanket denial of all VisaScreens for nurses licensed based on that exam. The policy decision remains under consideration at CGFNS, and any possibly affected VisaScreen applications will be held in abeyance until a final decision is made.

*Immi Says: R-1 applicants, you need to be aware that USCIS has temporarily suspended the Premium Processing.*



## **USCIS ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PREMIUM PROCESSING SERVICE FOR RELIGIOUS WORKERS (R-1) NONIMMIGRANT VISA CLASSIFICATION**

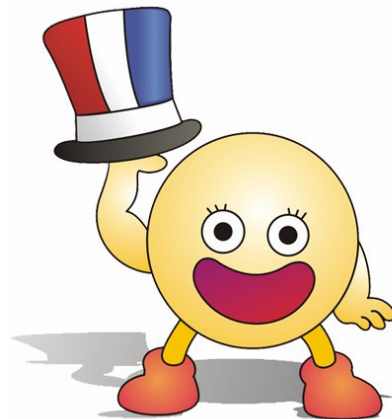
**SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AILA)**

In August 2005, U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Office of Fraud Detection and National Security completed a Benefit Fraud Assessment (BFA) for religious worker petitions. The BFA revealed significant issues and potential vulnerabilities. As a result of this assessment and to ensure the integrity of the religious worker program, additional adjudication procedures are necessary.

Premium Processing Service guarantees that within 15 calendar days of receipt of a petition, USCIS will issue either an approval notice, a notice of intent to deny, a request for evidence or open an investigation for fraud or misrepresentation. Due to the complexities of the USCIS adjudication processes at this time, the Agency cannot reasonably ensure this level of processing service for the R-1 petitions within 15 calendar days. Therefore, USCIS is temporarily suspending Premium Processing Service for Aliens in a Religious Occupation which is filed on Form I-129, along with the Q-1 and R-1 Classifications Supplement.

This suspension will last six months beginning on November 28, 2006. During this timeframe, USCIS will determine whether it is able to process these cases within 15 calendar days of receipt. If so, Form I-129 requesting R-1 nonimmigrant visa classification once again will be available for Premium Processing Service. Otherwise, USCIS may prescribe additional conditions of availability on Premium Processing Service for religious worker petitions, or may publish a Federal Register Notice permanently removing the R-1 nonimmigrant visa classification from eligibility for Premium Processing Service.

***Citizen Immi Says: Hello!! U.S.,  
Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda citizens,  
make sure you have passports with you to  
travel in and out of U.S.A.***



**DOS ANNOUNCED PASSPORTS  
REQUIREMENT FOR AIR TRAVEL TO U.S. EFFECTIVE 01/23/2007**

**[SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION \(AILA\)](#)**

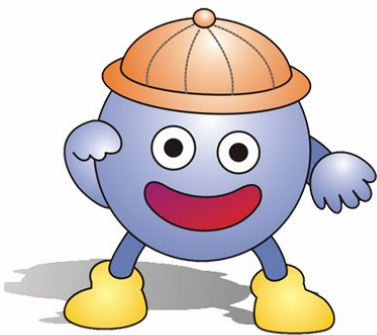
The Departments of State and Homeland Security announced that the requirement for citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda to present a passport to enter the United States when arriving by air from any part of the Western Hemisphere will begin on January 23, 2007.

This change in travel document requirements is the result of recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission, which Congress subsequently passed into law in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. These new travel document requirements make up the Departments' Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). In order to obtain national security

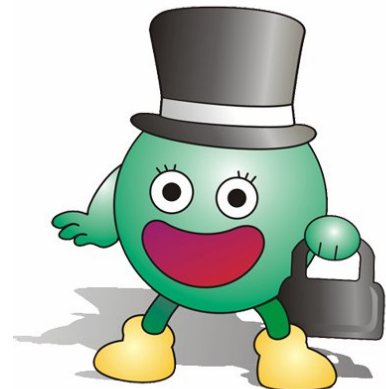
benefits as quickly as possible, and to expedite the processing of arriving passengers, the plan will be implemented in two phases.

The first phase involves travel by air and requires all citizens of the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Bermuda to have a passport or other accepted document that establishes the bearer's identity and nationality to enter or re-enter the United States from within the Western Hemisphere. The final rule for the air phase of the WHTI rule will be published in the Federal Register on November 24, where it can be viewed at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). That rule is also available on the Department's consular web site, [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) and on the Department of Homeland Security's web site, [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov). A separate proposed rule addressing land and sea travel will be published at a later date proposing specific requirements for travelers entering the United States through land and sea border crossings. As early as January 1, 2008, U.S. citizens traveling between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Bermuda by land or sea could be required to present a valid U.S. passport or other documents as determined by the Department of Homeland Security. While recent legislative changes permit a later deadline, the Departments of State and Homeland Security are working to meet all requirements as soon as possible.

The Department has dedicated additional resources and personnel to meet the increased demand for passports generated by these requirements. In Fiscal Year 2006, the Department issued a record 12.1 million passports to American citizens, and anticipates issuing 16 million passports in Fiscal Year 2007.



***Immi Say: Look!! The USCIS proposes to add a new system for Background Check Service.***



## **USCIS PROPOSES BACKGROUND CHECK SERVICE**

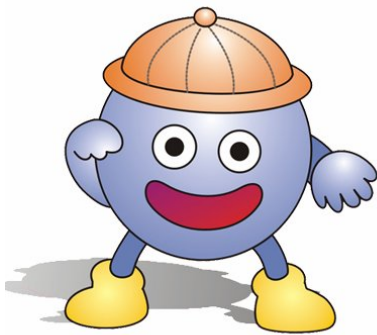
**[SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION \(AILA\)](#)**

On December 4, 2006, USCIS issued a notice of a proposal to add a new system of records entitled Background Check Service. The established system of records will be effective January 3, 2007, unless comments are received that result in a contrary determination.

Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, proposes to add a new system of records to the Department's inventory, entitled Background Check Service. The U.S. Citizenship and

Immigration Services, Office of Field Operations operates the Background Check Service. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services conducts background checks on petitioners and applicants who are seeking immigration related benefits. To facilitate the background check process and to improve efficiency, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services developed the Background Check Service as a centralized repository that contains the consolidated data on all background check requests and results. The Background Check Service allows authorized U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services representatives to request background checks and access the data stored in the Background Check Service during the adjudication process in order to facilitate informed decision-making.

## QUICK INFORMATION BYTES

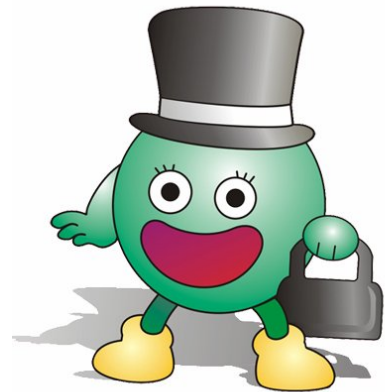


***Immi, Jr. says: When you apply for the Employment Authorization Card during the OPT time, remember you cannot work until the validity start date of the Employment Authorization Card.***

SOURCE: TERRENCE L. OLSEN, ESQ., OLSEN LAW FIRM

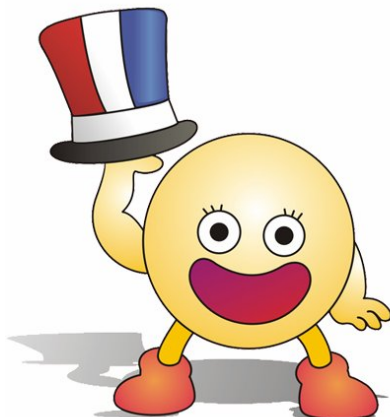
***Immi says: Be aware for H-1B extension purposes, L-1A, L-1B, and H-1B time will be added together.***

SOURCE: TERRENCE L. OLSEN, ESQ., OLSEN LAW FIRM



***Citizen Immi says: When you apply for the removal of Conditional Residence status, your Permanent Resident status will not be interrupted during the time of the pending Form I-751.***

SOURCE: TERRENCE L. OLSEN, ESQ., OLSEN LAW FIRM



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Explanation:* If you have questions concerning immigration related issues or concerns and are of a non-advice and pure general interest nature, please e-mail them to [tolsen@tlolaw.com](mailto:tolsen@tlolaw.com).

## IMPORTANT IMMIGRATION RELATED WEB SITES

<http://uscis.gov/graphics/index.htm>

- US Citizenship and Immigration Services Web Link

<http://www.dol.gov/>

- Dept. of Labor Web Link

<http://www.state.gov/>

- Dept. of State Web Link

<http://www.embassy.org/>

- Embassies in Washington D.C. Web Link

<http://www.aviso.net/government/embassies/>

- Embassies Located Inside and Outside U.S. Web Link

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please visit: [www.tlolaw.com](http://www.tlolaw.com) for our web site

**Terrence L. Olsen, Attorney, [tolsen@tlolaw.com](mailto:tolsen@tlolaw.com), 423-648-9390 and 423-648-9370 (for Chinese and Taiwanese language assistance)**

### **Disclaimer**

OLSEN LAW FIRM provides the information on these pages as a public service, free of charge. Information contained on these pages is not intended as, and should not be taken as, legal advice. The use of information provided on these pages should not be taken as establishing any contractual or other form of attorney-client relationship between OLSEN LAW FIRM and the reader or user of this information.

While we would like to hear from you, please understand that merely contacting us does not create an attorney-client relationship between us. We cannot represent you or become your lawyers in any way unless (1) we know that doing so would not create conflict of interest with any of the clients we currently represent or have represented in the past and (2) satisfactory arrangements have been made between us for our representation.

While we have provided links to other World Wide Web sites, we cannot be and are not responsible for the contents of these other sites. We expressly disclaim any liability with respect to actions taken or actions not taken based on content received from a third-party web site linked, directly or indirectly, to the OLSEN LAW FIRM web site.

The link to another site is not to be construed in any way as an endorsement of the host, the site, or the information contained therein, nor is such link to be inferred as an association or affiliation with the host.

Listing of related or included practice areas herein by individual attorneys or by OLSEN LAW FIRM does not constitute or imply a representation of Certification of Specialization.

Immi, Jr., Immi, and Citizen Immi © 2002 by Terrence L. Olsen.