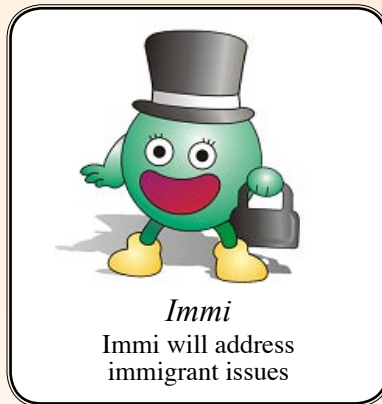


W The Olsen Law Firm IMMIGRATION WATCH

• VOLUME 4
• JULY 2007

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.



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Immi, Jr. says:

You need to be aware that the USCIS has new “Direct Filing” and its effective date is July 30, 2007.

USCIS ANNOUNCES NEW “DIRECT FILING” INSTRUCTIONS FOR FORM I-129F, I-131, I-140, I-360, I-485, I-765, and I-907

Source: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AILA)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced new “Direct Filing” instructions for additional immigration forms that were transitioned last year into the Bi-Specialization initiative. “Direct Filing” is the process by which USCIS requires customers to file their petitions and applications with the service center that will process the filings, based on the place of temporary employment or place of residence. USCIS customers can expect that the center where they file will also generate the receipt notice and complete the adjudication. This is a streamlining of the Bi-Specialization process which previously required the filing of applications and petitions at one centralized location and that were subsequently distributed to another service center for issuance of a receipt notice and final case processing.

This Update addresses “Direct Filing” instructions for the following forms: Form I-129F (Petition for Alien Fiance´(e)), Form I-131 (Application for Travel Document), Form I-140 (Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker) Form I-360 (Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant), Form I-485 (Application To Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status), Form I-765 (Application for Employment Authorization) and Form I-907 (Request for Premium Processing Service). USCIS will implement “Direct Filing” incrementally for all remaining petition and application forms transitioned into the Bi-Specialization initiative.

The effective date of the “Direct Filing” instructions for all of forms I-129F, I-131, I-140, I-360, I-485,

I-765 and I-907 is July 30, 2007, and coincides with the effective date of the fee increase for all immigration benefit applications and petitions. During the first 30 days of “Direct Filing” (July 30 to August 28), USCIS will not reject any form incorrectly filed at the prior filing location. However, applicant must include the correct fee and must meet all other requirements for a proper filing. Beginning on or after August 29, 2007, USCIS will reject any of the forms listed above that are filed with the incorrect filing location. Those rejected and returned forms will include the fee and instructions for proper filing.

USCIS will accept Forms I-129F, I-131, I-140, I-360, I-485, I-765 and I-907 filed with the new “Direct Filing” location in advance of the July 30, 2007 effective date, that are otherwise properly filed.



Immi says:

Remember the USCIS will accept employment-based applications to adjust status filed by aliens whose priority dates are current under the July Visa Bulletin, No. 107 not later than August 17, 2007.

USCIS ANNOUNCES REVISED PROCESSING PROCEDURES FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS APPLICATIONS

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

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that, beginning immediately, it will accept employment-based applications to adjust status (Form I-485) filed by aliens whose priority dates are current under the July Visa Bulletin, No. 107. USCIS will accept applications filed not later than August 17, 2007.

On July 2, 2007, USCIS announced that it would not accept any additional employment-based applications to adjust status. USCIS made that announcement after receiving an update from the Department of State that it would not authorize any additional employment-based visa numbers for this fiscal year. After consulting with USCIS, the Department of State has advised that Bulletin #107 (dated June 12) should be relied upon as the current July Visa Bulletin for purposes of determining employment visa number availability, and that Visa Bulletin #108 (dated July 2) has been withdrawn.

“The public reaction to the July 2 announcement made it clear that the federal government’s management of this process needs further review,” said Emilio Gonzalez, USCIS Director. “I am committed to working with Congress and the State Department to implement a more efficient system in line with public expectations.”

USCIS’s announcement today allows anyone who was eligible to apply under Visa Bulletin No. 107 a full month’s time to do so. Applications already properly

filed with USCIS will also be accepted. The current fee schedule will apply to all applications filed under Visa Bulletin No. 107 through August 17, 2007. (The new fee schedule that becomes effective on July 30, 2007, will apply to all other applications filed on or after July 30, 2007).



Citizen Immi says:

Oh! Look, the USCIS has new technology for managing Inter-Country adoptions. It is going to give better services for customers, enhance security, and has better interaction with other agencies.

USCIS LAUNCHES TRANSFORMATION PILOT INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTIONS TO BE FIRST TEST CASELOAD

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

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has launched its first pilot program to test the web-based information management tool known as the Secure Information Management Service (SIMS). USCIS deployed SIMS on July 5, 2007, to process inter-country adoption applications domestically in Memphis, Tennessee and Newark, New Jersey, and internationally in Frankfurt, Germany; Bangkok, Thailand; and Mexico City, Mexico.

Inter-country adoptions filing requirements and processing dates will remain the same during the initial phase of the pilot program. Applicants will continue to submit Form I-600A (Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition), Form I-600 (Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative), and Form N-600 (Application for Certificate of Citizenship). USCIS will then create individual customer accounts in the SIMS database and adjudicate the applications.

During the pilot period, USCIS will work with its employees, customers, and adoption agencies to monitor, identify and address any specific challenges or issues that may arise throughout the pilot period. Ultimately, USCIS plans to expand the SIMS business model nationwide to include all agency petitions and applications, a change that will allow USCIS to more efficiently process its workload and improve customer service in the future.

According to USCIS Director Emilio Gonzalez, the pilot is part of the agency's ongoing effort to update

and modernize its business and management systems for the 21st century. SIMS enables USCIS employees to move from a paper-based business model to an electronic-based model.

“The cumulative results of SIMS, the inter-country adoption pilot, and the overall USCIS transformation effort will change the way we do business and will streamline outdated processes,” Gonzalez said. “These improvements will not only mean better service for our customers, but will also enable us to enhance security, prevent fraud, and equip us with the means for better interaction with other state and federal agencies.”

QUICK INFORMATION BYTES

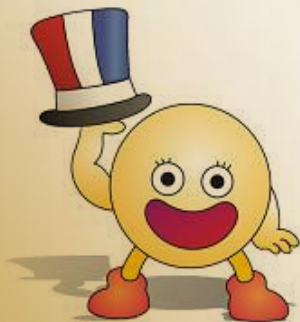


Immi, Jr. says: When you apply for any immigration benefit, you need to make sure you submit to the USCIS the required sized photo (2" x 2").

Immi says: FBI checks are currently taking beyond two to three months. They are sometimes taking five to six months, and sometimes even beyond this time.



Citizen Immi says: Remember that July 30, 2007 is the effective date for new filing fees and new direct filing with the USCIS.



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

IMPORTANT IMMIGRATION RELATED WEB SITES

- US Citizenship and Immigration Services
<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>
- Department of Labor
<http://www.dol.gov/>
- Department of State
<http://www.state.gov/>
- Embassies in Washington D.C.
<http://www.embassy.org/>
- Visa Bulletin
http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_1360.html



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