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USCIS Procedures on Immigration Help for Those Affected by Hurricane Irma

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On September 13, 2017, **U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)** announced detailed immigration services to help people affected by unforeseen circumstances/disaster. Specifically, USCIS provided an example as those affected by Hurricane Irma. **This USCIS clarification is important because such immigration services are highly discretionary.** This detailed announcement on September 13, 2017 is in addition to its September 12, 2017 confirmation on immigration help for Hurricane Irma victims. See <http://immigrationresource.net/uscis-announced-immigration-help-for-those-affected-by-hurricane-irma/>

While Hurricane Irma has caused serious damages in many parts of Florida, U.S. is still recovering from the aftermath of recent Hurricane Harvey in Texas. Previously, on August 30, 2017, USCIS announced the same discretionary temporary reliefs to individuals impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

Immigration help for these individuals are given on a case-by-case basis upon request. Applicant must include an explanation on how the impact of Hurricane Irma

has caused a need for such services. The services that may be available are:

- Changing a nonimmigrant status or extending a nonimmigrant stay for an individual currently in the United States. Non-timely extension or change of status may be excused if the delay was due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the applicant's control;
- Re-paroling individuals previously on parole by USCIS;
- Expediting processing of advance parole;
- Expediting adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization based on severe economic hardship for F-1 students;
- Expediting adjudication of employment authorization applications, where applicable;
- Considering fee waivers due to an inability to pay;
- Assisting those with a Request for Evidence or a Notice of Intent to Deny who were unable to submit evidence or respond timely;
- Assisting those who are unable to appear for a USCIS scheduled interview;
- Expediting replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card); and
- Rescheduling a biometrics appointment.

September 13, 2017

This article is intended for informational purposes only, and should not be relied on as legal advice or attorney-client relationship. By **Aik Wan Kok, Lawyer USA Immigration Services, at Tiya**; Tel: seven zero three - 772-8224 & info at tiyaimmigration dot com; Direct dial from abroad: 001-703-772-8224;

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Need help with green card, work visas, work permit, sponsoring family, sponsoring employees, sponsoring relatives, hardships or immigration waivers, U.S. naturalization/citizenship, and cases with USCIS, Department of Labor or immigration? **We represent employers, companies, individuals, and families in U.S. Immigration & Nationality Law. Our clients are based nationwide in the U.S. and internationally. We represent diverse immigration cases including, but are not limiting to: extraordinary ability; national interest waiver; PERM with U.S. Department of Labor; I-130 for sponsoring relatives and families; I-140 for employment green card; I-485 to adjust status; I-765 work permit/employment authorization; I-131 for international travel and returning to the U.S; I-601 extreme hardship waiver relatives of U.S. citizen or green card holder; I-751 joint filing or waiver; I-212 waiver for deportation or removal order; J waiver; H-1B professional worker/specialty occupation; H-2B temporary worker; L executive, manager and specialized knowledge professional transferring from overseas; E treaty investors/traders; B-1 business visitor to the U.S.; B-2 visitor to the U.S.; F-1 student coming to study in the U.S.; matters pertaining to consular processing with U.S. consulates and National Visa Centers; cases with USCIS; cases with U.S. Department of Labor; PERM audit; RFE Request for Evidence; NOID Notice of Intention to Deny; and many more.**

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