Immigration resource news magazine for United states of america

Immigration Magazine

USCIS Centralized I-601 and I-212 Inadmissibility Waiver Filings

Tiyalaw · Tuesday, August 7th, 2012

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Individuals outside the U.S. who have been found inadmissible by a U.S. consular officer for an immigrant visa or a nonimmigrant K or V visa, must now (since June 4, 2012) file their waiver applications directly to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) by mailing the application to a USCIS Lockbox facility in the United States instead of filing at their foreign location. These waiver applications are adjudicated at the USCIS Nebraska Service Center (NSC). The change affects waiver filings for:

1. Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility,
2. Form I-212, Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States After Deportation or Removal (if filed together with a Form I-601), and
3. Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion (if filed after a denial of a Form I-601 or Form I-212 by the NSC).

The waiver filing location changes afford several advantages:

§ **Faster filing**: Applicants can file a waiver application immediately after the consular interview. An applicant who files with the Lockbox does not need to wait for an appointment at a USCIS Field Office to file the waiver application and will not need to travel to the USCIS office.

§ **Shorter processing time**: The NSC's goal is to process the waiver applications

within 3 months.

§ **Ability to track the progress of an application:** Applicants who file waiver applications through the Lockbox can view the progress of their application online. This service is not available to applicants who file their waiver applications at USCIS international field offices.

Individuals in Mexico still have the option to file their waiver applications with the local USCIS Field Office in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, in addition to the Lockbox, until Dec. 4, 2012 (transition period). However, those who choose to file their waiver applications at the Lockbox will experience certain advantages.

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We represent employers, and individuals and their families in green card, citizenship and work visa matters in U.S. immigration law. We also have a focus on green card cases such as extraordinary ability, national interest waiver, PERM, family; work and related visa matters such as H, L, P, O, E, K.

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This entry was posted on Tuesday, August 7th, 2012 at 4:53 am and is filed under Green Card, Green Card via Family, Immigration Forms, Immigration News, Others, USCIS Case Status, USCIS Processing Time, Waivers
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