



IMMIGRATION LAW REPORT

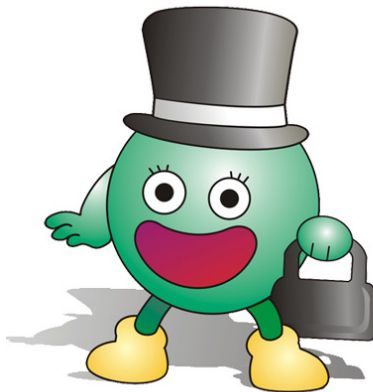
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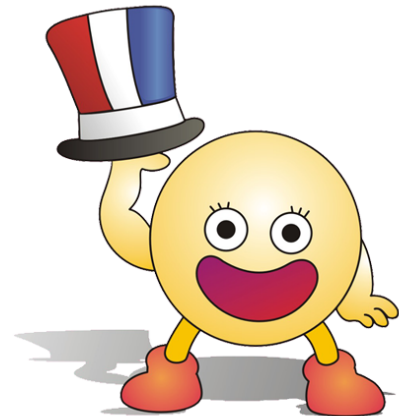
Immi, Jr.

Immi, Jr. will address nonimmigrant issues.



Immi

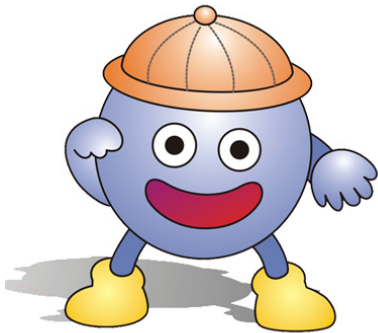
Immi will address immigrant issues.



Citizen Immi

Citizen Immi will address citizenship issues.

IMMEDIATE INFORMATIONAL RELEASES:



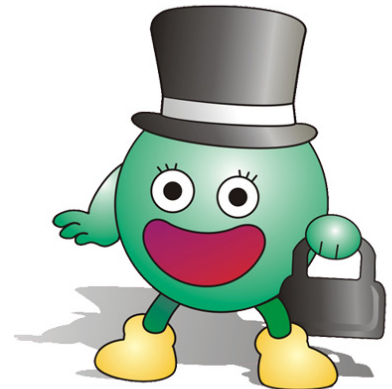
Immi, Jr. says: Be aware that not everyone is using SEVIS!!!

DOS PUBLISHES FINAL RULE AMENDING SEVIS REGULATIONS

SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AILA)

The new regulations will establish the verification and reporting procedures required by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) foreign student monitoring system known as Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). As SEVIS was fully implemented on February 15, 2003, the Department's transitional foreign student database known as the Interim Student and Exchange Authentication System (ISEAS) is no longer available to the educational and exchange visitor communities. However, it remains available to consular sections in the field as a means of electronically verifying student and exchange visitor documentation issued prior to February 15, 2003. (Basically, although SEVIS has replaced ISEAS, certain depts. in the consulates still has access to ISEAS.)

Immi says: For F, J, H, L, and B Visas, Visa Mantis Clearances Can Be Extended Without Worry!!!!



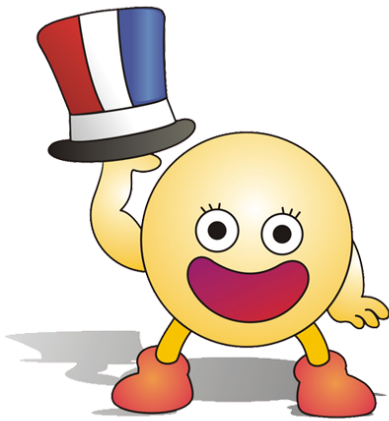
SOME VISAS MANTIS CLEARANCES EXTENED

SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AILA)

Visa applications for persons to study or work in certain sensitive scientific and technical fields are subject to an interagency clearance in Washington, DC, called Visas Mantis. Since 1998, the Visas Mantis clearance process has been used to screen against

the illegal transfer of technology. Once the clearance process is complete and a visa is issued, the individual may apply for admission at a U.S. port of entry. Visas Mantis clearance and visa validity are different than the period of admission determined by a Department of Homeland Security officer at the port of entry.

The U.S. Department of State, in consultation with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, has extended the validity of Visas Mantis clearances for the F (student), J (exchange visitors), H (temporary workers), L (intracompany transferees) and B (tourist and business) categories of visas. This means that if the original visa has expired and a new visa application is filed to return to the previous study or work program in the United States, another Visas Mantis clearance may not be required. Consular officers have the discretion, if warranted, to request a Visas Mantis clearance during any visa adjudication.



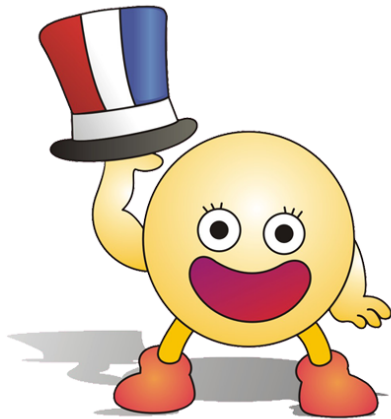
Citizen Immi says: New Change!!! Watch out for Electronic U.S. Passports.

DOS PUBLISHES PROPOSED RULE ON ELECTRONIC U.S. PASSPORTS

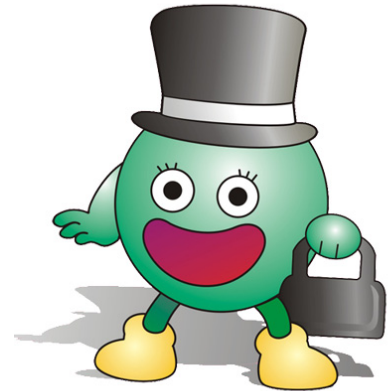
SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AILA)

This proposed rule would amend the passport regulations to incorporate changes required by the electronic passport. The rule would define "electronic passport," would include a damaged electronic chip as an additional basis for possible invalidation of a passport, would abolish the U.S. passport amendment process except for the convenience of the U.S. Government, and would enlarge the reasons for issuing a replacement passport at no fee. The rule would also add unpaid fees as a ground for invalidating a passport.

The first passport using the enhanced, electronic passport format is expected to be issued in mid-2005. After that, the issuance technology would be sequentially placed into all passport agencies, so that, within a year, all new passports would be issued in this format. All valid old-style passports would continue to be valid until they normally expire unless they were individually invalidated.



*Immis say: Good news!!!
The USA welcomes
internationals!!!!!!!*



DOS/DHS ANNOUNCE IMPROVED VISA PROCESSING TIMES
SOURCE: AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (AILA)

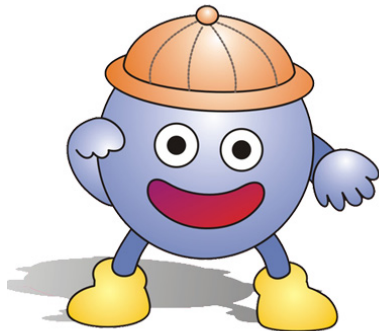
Departments of State and Homeland Security Announce Improved Visa Processing for International Travelers

The following is a joint announcement by U.S. Department of State Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs and Department of Homeland Security Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security on improved visa processing for international visitors:

The United States continues to be a nation that welcomes international students, businesspersons and other visitors. The Departments of State and Homeland Security have worked closely over the past two years to develop visa and port of entry policies and programs that not only maintain a high degree of security for America, but also facilitate travel to the United States. We welcome travelers wishing to work, study or enjoy the diversity of our people and our land.

Today, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report citing specific improvements that have resulted in a significant reduction in visa processing times for those wishing to study or work in certain sensitive scientific or technical fields in the United States. The Departments of State and Homeland Security have made steady progress in improving the clearance process known as Visas Mantis throughout the past year. The GAO has validated these efforts, noting that the addition of staff, investments in systems, additional guidance to officers and interagency cooperation have resulted in significant declines in processing times. Visas Mantis processing today averages less than 14 days. In addition, not only have we reduced the processing times for Visas Mantis, but we also recently extended the validity of Visas Mantis clearances, reducing the number of times a visa applicant is subject to a Washington, D.C., interagency clearance.

QUICK INFORMATIONAL BYTES:

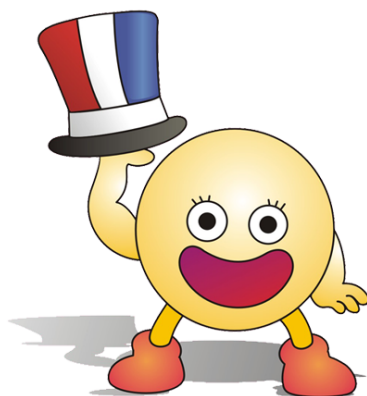
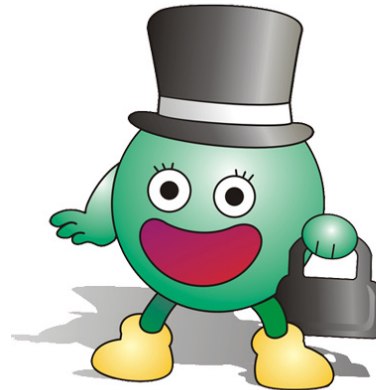


Immi, Jr. says: Remember, if you change your address you must notify your student international advisor right away.

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

Immi says: It appears that the processing of EAD cards is slowing down. Therefore, remember that you can always obtain an interim EAD card after 90 days of processing.

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



Citizen Immi says: In most states, the oath ceremony rotates from major city to major city.

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.

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 INFO:

Please visit: www.tlolaw.com for our web site
Terry Olsen, Attorney, tolsen@tlolaw.com, 423-648-9390 and 423-648-9370 (for Chinese and Taiwanese language assistance)

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