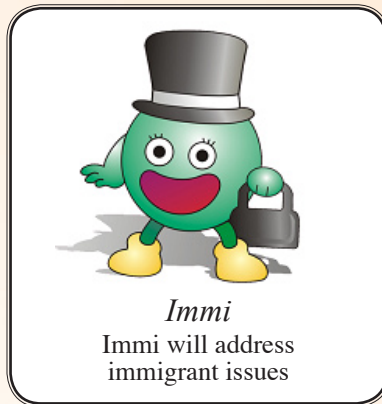


W The Olsen Law Firm IMMIGRATION WATCH

• VOLUME 4
• DECEMBER 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:

Remember!! The application fees for non-immigrant visas will increase from \$100 to \$131 on January 1, 2008.

APPLICATION FEES FOR NON- IMMIGRANT VISAS TO INCREASE ON JANUARY 1, 2008

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

Effective January 1, 2008, the application fee for a U.S. non-immigrant visa will increase from \$100 to \$131. This increase allows the Department to recover the costs of security and other enhancements to the non-immigrant visa application process. This increase applies both to non-immigrant visas issued on machine-readable foils in passports and to border crossing cards issued to certain applicants in Mexico.

Applicants who paid the prior \$100 application fee before January 1 will be processed only if they are scheduled and appear for a visa interview on or before January 31. Applicants who paid the prior \$100 application fee and appear for visa interviews after January 31, 2008 must pay the difference -- \$31 -- before they will be interviewed.

The Department is required by law to attempt to recover the cost of processing non-immigrant visas through the collection of the Machine-Readable Visa application fee. Because of new security-related costs, new information technology systems, and inflation, the \$100 Machine-Readable Visa fee is lower than the actual cost of processing non-immigrant visas. In fact, the \$100 fee was already lower than the cost of processing non-immigrant visas when the fee was reviewed as a part of the cost of service study in 2004.

The Department has been absorbing the additional cost. We are now collecting 10 fingerprints from each applicant, and the cost charged by the FBI to review

those fingerprints no longer allows us to do this. The application fee has increased twice since September 11, 2001, the last time in 2002.



Immi says:

International visitors, you need to be aware that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is now collecting 10 fingerprints at Washington Dulles International Airport.

DHS BEGINS COLLECTING 10 FINGERPRINTS FROM INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AT WASHINGTON DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is now collecting additional fingerprints from international visitors arriving at Washington Dulles International Airport (Dulles). The change is part of the department's upgrade from two- to 10-fingerprint collection in order to enhance security and fingerprint matching accuracy.

"Anyone who's watched the news or seen crimes solved on television shows can appreciate the power of biometrics," said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. "They help the legitimate traveler proceed more quickly while protecting their identity and enable our frontline personnel to focus even greater attention on potential security risks. Biometrics tell the story that the unknown terrorist tries to conceal, and it causes them to question whether they've ever left a print behind."

Department of State (DOS) consular officers and DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers collect biometrics—digital fingerprints and a photograph—from all non-U.S. citizens between the ages of 14 and 79, with some exceptions, when they apply for visas or arrive at U.S. ports of entry. The department's US-VISIT program checks this data against a joint Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)-DHS watch list of criminals, immigration violators and known or suspected terrorists. Watch list data comes from several sources, in particular the Department of Defense (DOD), FBI, DHS and other federal, state and

local law enforcement agencies.

Checking biometrics against these databases helps officers make visa determinations and admissibility decisions. It also improves the department's ability to compare a visitor's fingerprints against latent fingerprints collected by DOD and the FBI from known and unknown terrorists all over the world. Dulles became the first port of entry to collect additional fingerprints from visitors on November 29. Nine other ports of entry will begin 10-fingerprint collection during the next few months, and the 278 remaining ports will begin this process by the end of 2008. This announcement is the result of an interagency partnership among DHS, FBI, DOD and DOS.

The next ports scheduled to collect 10 fingerprints from international visitors are: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport; Boston Logan International Airport; Chicago O'Hare International Airport; San Francisco International Airport; George Bush Houston Intercontinental Airport; Miami International Airport; Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport; Orlando International Airport; and New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. US-VISIT, in cooperation with CBP, is leading the transition to a 10-fingerprint collection standard. Since US-VISIT began in 2004, DHS has used biometric identifiers to prevent the use of fraudulent documents, protect visitors from identity theft, and stop thousands of criminals and immigration violators from entering the country.



Immi says:

You need to be aware that as of December 3, 2007 all applicants filing stand-alone Form I-130s need to be filed with the Chicago Lockbox.

USCIS REVISES FILING INSTRUCTIONS FOR PETITION FOR ALIEN RELATIVE Form I-130s to be filed with the Chicago Lockbox

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

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is revising the filing instructions for the Petition for Alien Relative (Form I-130). Effective Dec. 3, 2007, all applicants filing stand-alone Form I-130s are encouraged to file their petitions with the Chicago Lockbox instead of a USCIS Service Center.

Petitions filed with the Chicago Lockbox will be routed to, and adjudicated at, the appropriate USCIS Service Center. This routing will be based on the petitioner's place of residence in the United States.

Two separate post office box addresses (see below) have been established that correspond to the appropriate USCIS Service Center (either Vermont or California) that will process and adjudicate the petition. Although Form I-130 will be filed with the Chicago Lockbox, petitioners will receive receipt notices from either the Vermont or California Service Center.

Petitioners who reside in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin or Wyoming are encouraged to file their stand-alone Form I-130s with the Lockbox using the following address:

**USCIS
P.O. Box 804625
Chicago, IL 60680-1029**

Petitioners who reside in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, U.S. Virgin Islands, West Virginia or District of Columbia are encouraged to file their stand-alone Form I-130 with the Lockbox using the following address:

**USCIS
P.O. Box 804616
Chicago, IL 60680-1029**

While the changes are effective December 3, any Form I-130 filed with the Service Center will not be rejected; it will be forwarded to the designated Chicago Lockbox. Petitioners are encouraged, however, to begin using the designated Lockbox filing on the effective date in order to avoid processing delays.



Citizen Immi says:

Oh!! Remember all adult travelers as 01/31/2008 will be required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, and proof of identity, such as a driver's license, when entering the United States through land and sea ports of entry.

TRAVELERS REMINDED OF NEW DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS BEGINNING JANUARY 31, 2008

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

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the U.S. Department of State (DOS) remind the traveling public that as of Jan. 31, 2008, all adult travelers will be required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, and proof of identity, such as a driver's license, when entering the United States through land and sea ports of entry. DHS will be issuing a notice in the Federal Register formally announcing the change.

This change is a necessary step to prepare travelers and ease the transition to the future requirements of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). WHTI proposes to establish documentation requirements for travelers entering the United States who were previously exempt, including citizens of the U.S., Canada, and Bermuda. As recommended by the 9/11 Commission, Congress enacted WHTI in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. WHTI will result in both enhanced security and increased facilitation across the border once implemented. During this transition, DHS and the Department of State are working diligently to minimize the impact on legitimate trade and travel.

Currently, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers may accept oral declarations of citizenship from U.S. and Canadian citizens seeking entry into the United States through a land or sea border. However, as of January 31, 2008:

- Oral declarations of citizenship alone will no longer be accepted
- U.S. and Canadian citizens ages 19 and older will

need to present a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, along with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or naturalization certificate

- Children ages 18 and under will only be required to present proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate
- Passports and trusted traveler program cards - NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST - will continue to be accepted for cross-border travel All existing nonimmigrant visa and passport requirements will remain in effect and will not be altered by this change.

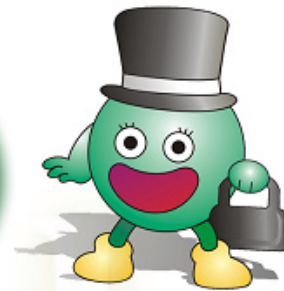
DOS reminds the public that the current turnaround time for a passport is four to six weeks, so Americans planning international travel may wish to apply now.

QUICK INFORMATION BYTES



Immie, Jr. says: When F-1s enter the U.S., it will be best to present your I-20 and F-1 visa at the port of entry.

Immie says: It will be best to bring two different identification documents, such as Driver's License, Permanent Resident Card, and/or Passport, to attend a Fingerprint appointment.



Citizen Immie says: Due to an increased amount of applications and petitions filed with the USCIS, the processing time for Naturalization applications is backlogged approximately 16 to 18 months. Being patient is very important to this process.

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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