

USCIS Policy Manual

Current as of **January 05, 2017**

Updates

Technical Update – Clarifying Intent to Reside in United States for Naturalization Purposes

January 05, 2017

This technical update clarifies that naturalization applicants are not required to intend to reside permanently in the United States after becoming U.S. citizens. This update is in accordance with current statutes; prior to 1994, a person who became a naturalized U.S. citizen was expected to hold the intention of residing permanently in the United States. See Section 104 of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-416 (October 25, 1994).

Technical Update – Medical Codes for Purposes of Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions

January 05, 2017

This technical update clarifies that, for purposes of Form N-648, Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions, USCIS accepts the relevant medical codes recognized by the Department of Health and Human Services. This includes codes found in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the International Classification of Diseases.

POLICY ALERT – Registration of Lawful Permanent Resident Status

December 21, 2016

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance addressing registration of lawful permanent resident (LPR) status.

POLICY ALERT – False Claim to U.S. Citizenship Ground of Inadmissibility

December 14, 2016

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing guidance to address the false claim to U.S. citizenship ground of inadmissibility under section 212(a)(6)(C)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

Technical Update – Clarifying Designated Periods of Hostilities for Naturalization under INA 329

AILA Doc. No. 17010504. (Posted 1/5/17)

December 13, 2016

This technical update clarifies that, for purposes of naturalization under INA 329, the current period designated by Presidential Executive Order 13269 (July 3, 2002), as a period in which the U.S. armed forces are considered to be engaged in armed conflict with a hostile foreign force, is still in effect. In addition, this update adds information about the USCIS Military Help Line in this part.

POLICY ALERT – Employment-Based Fifth Preference Immigrants: Investors

November 30, 2016

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance regarding the eligibility requirements for regional centers and immigrant investors.

POLICY ALERT – Definition of Certain Classes of Medical Conditions and Other Updates Relating to Health-Related Grounds of Inadmissibility

November 02, 2016

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is updating guidance regarding health-related grounds of inadmissibility in accordance with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) rulemaking updating Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 34 (42 CFR 34).

POLICY ALERT – Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification and Special Immigrant-Based Adjustment of Status

October 26, 2016

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance regarding the special immigrant juvenile (SIJ) classification and special immigrant-based (EB-4) adjustment of status, including adjustment based on classification as a special immigrant religious worker, SIJ, and G-4 international organization or NATO-6 employee or family member, among others.

POLICY ALERT – Determining Extreme Hardship

October 21, 2016

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance on determinations of extreme hardship to qualifying relatives as required by certain statutory waiver provisions. This guidance becomes effective December 5, 2016.

Technical Update – Military Accessions Vital to National Interest Program and Time of Filing for Naturalization

October 19, 2016

This technical update clarifies that, in general, Department of Defense (DOD) Military Accessions Vital to National Interest (MAVNI) enlistees may file an application for naturalization during basic training in the U.S. armed forces.

POLICY ALERT – Department of Defense Military Accessions Vital to National Interest Program

August 03, 2016

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance to provide information about the existing Department of Defense (DOD) Military Accessions Vital to National Interest (MAVNI) Program.

POLICY ALERT – Effective Date of Lawful Permanent Residence for Purposes of Citizenship and Naturalization

July 27, 2016

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance regarding the date of legal permanent residence (LPR) for naturalization and citizenship purposes.

POLICY ALERT – Removing Obsolete Form I-643 from Filing Requirements for Certain Adjustment Applications

June 22, 2016

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is updating policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to remove obsolete Form I-643, Health and Human Services Statistical Data for Refugee/Asylee Adjusting Status, from the filing requirements for applications for adjustment of status under section 209 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

POLICY ALERT – Adjustment of Status Policies and Procedures and 245(a) Adjustment

February 25, 2016

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance addressing the general policies and procedures of adjustment of status as well as adjustment under section 245(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

POLICY ALERT – Media Representatives (I) Nonimmigrant Visa Classification

November 10, 2015

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance regarding the foreign information media representative nonimmigrant visa classification, commonly known as the “I” visa category.

POLICY ALERT – Modifications to Oath of Allegiance for Naturalization

July 21, 2015

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance to clarify the eligibility requirements for modifications to the Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance for naturalization.

Technical Update – Multiple Absences and Residence and Physical Presence

July 20, 2015

This technical update clarifies that along with reviewing for absences of more than 6 months, officers review whether an applicant for naturalization with multiple absences of less than 6 months is able establish the required residence and physical presence for naturalization.

Technical Update – Child Citizenship Act and Children of U.S. Government Employees Residing Abroad

July 20, 2015

This technical update clarifies that the child of a U.S. government employee temporarily stationed abroad is considered to be residing in the United States for purposes of acquisition of citizenship under INA 320.

POLICY ALERT – Effect of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) on Immigration and Acquisition of Citizenship Under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)

October 28, 2014

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance relating to the use of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART).

Technical Update – Religious Missionaries Abroad and Residence and Physical Presence

October 21, 2014

This technical update clarifies who may be considered to be a missionary of a religious group for purposes of preserving residence and physical presence for naturalization while working abroad.

Technical Update – Treating Certain Peace Corps Contractors as U.S. Government Employees

October 21, 2014

This technical update clarifies that Peace Corps personal service contractors are considered U.S. Government employees under certain circumstances for purposes of preserving their residence for naturalization while working abroad.

POLICY ALERT – Nonimmigrant Trainees (H-3)

September 09, 2014

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance on the trainees (H-3) nonimmigrant visa category.

POLICY ALERT – Customer Service

August 26, 2014

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance on its standards in customer service.

Technical Update – Validity of Same-Sex Marriages

July 01, 2014

This technical update addresses the Supreme Court ruling holding that Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional.

POLICY ALERT – Changes to Dates of Birth and Names on Certificates of Citizenship

June 17, 2014

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance relating to changes of dates of birth and names per court orders.

POLICY ALERT – Validity Period of the Medical Certification on the Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record (Form I-693)

May 30, 2014

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing an update to policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual addressing the validity period of civil surgeon endorsements on the Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record, Form I-693.

Technical Update – Civil Surgeon Applications and Evidentiary Requirements

April 08, 2014

This technical update clarifies that an applicant for civil surgeon designation must, at a minimum, submit a copy of the medical degree to show he or she is a Medical Doctor or Doctor of Osteopathy.

AILA Doc. No. 17010504. (Posted 1/5/17)

POLICY ALERT – Fraud and Willful Misrepresentation Grounds of Inadmissibility

March 25, 2014

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing guidance on the fraud and willful misrepresentation grounds of inadmissibility under INA 212(a)(6)(C)(i) and the corresponding waiver under INA 212(i).

Technical Update – Vaccination Requirements for Pregnant or Immuno-Compromised Applicants

March 11, 2014

This technical update replaces the list of vaccines contraindicated for pregnant or immuno-compromised applicants with a reference to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Vaccination Technical Instructions. This ensures the Policy Manual guidance includes the most up-to-date information.

POLICY ALERT – Refugee and Asylee-Based Adjustment of Status under Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) Section 209

March 04, 2014

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to address adjustment of status applications filed by refugees and asylees under INA sections 209(a) and 209(b).

POLICY ALERT – Health-Related Grounds of Inadmissibility and Waivers

January 28, 2014

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual on the health-related grounds of inadmissibility under INA 212(a)(1) and corresponding waivers under INA 212(g).

POLICY ALERT – Civil Surgeon Designation and Centralization of the Designation Process at the National Benefits Center

January 28, 2014

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to centralize the civil surgeon designation process at the National Benefits Center, effective March 11, 2014.

Technical Update – Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

September 30, 2013

This technical update adds the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to list of certain territories of the United States where, subject to certain requirements, persons may be U.S. citizens at birth.

AILA Doc. No. 17010504. (Posted 1/5/17)

Technical Update – Certified Court Dispositions

September 30, 2013

This technical update adds language addressing existing policy on circumstances where an applicant is required to provide a certified court disposition.

POLICY ALERT – Security-Related Positions Abroad

June 10, 2013

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to address amendments to section 1059(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2006 by Public Law 112-227.

POLICY ALERT – Comprehensive Citizenship and Naturalization Policy Guidance

January 07, 2013

USCIS is issuing updated and comprehensive citizenship and naturalization policy guidance in the new USCIS Policy Manual.