



U.S. and Canadian Immigration and Nationality Law (Bimonthly) Newsletter and Updates.

Dear Reader:

On August 27, 2025, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a proposed rule to end the long-standing “duration of status” (D/S) admissions policy for F-1 students, J-1 exchange visitors, and I-1 foreign media representatives. Under the proposal, these categories would no longer be admitted for an indefinite period tied to program compliance but instead for fixed admission terms—generally up to four years for F-1s and J-1s, and shorter limits for I-1s. The rule would also reduce the F-1 grace period from 60 to 30 days, restrict program changes, and require timely extensions of stay to maintain lawful status. **Public comments are due by October 27, 2025.**

On August 19, 2025, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued new guidance instructing officers to consider evidence of “anti-Americanism” when adjudicating discretionary immigration benefits. This may include past parole requests, involvement in anti-American or terrorist organizations, and even instances of antisemitic activity. The guidance does not define the term, leaving broad discretion to officers. Advocates caution that this could chill free speech and create risks for foreign nationals based on social media activity or peaceful protest.

Separately, on August 15, 2025, USCIS released a memorandum revising how it evaluates “good moral character” for naturalization applicants. Officers must now apply a holistic review, weighing not only the absence of misconduct but also positive contributions, such as:

- Community involvement and service
- Family caregiving and responsibility
- Educational attainment

- Stable and lawful employment
- Compliance with tax obligations
- Long-term lawful residence in the U.S.

The updated standard places greater emphasis on positive attributes but also requires closer scrutiny of potentially disqualifying behavior.

We encourage you to stay informed as immigration policies continue to evolve. If you have any questions about how these developments may affect your status, travel, or future in the U.S., please contact NPZ Law Group at info@visaserve.com or call 201-670-0006 (ext. 104). Our experienced team of U.S. and Canadian immigration attorneys is here to provide strategic, knowledgeable, and compassionate assistance.

Know Your Rights: What to Do If ICE Comes to Your Home, Workplace, or Stops You in Public (English & Spanish Versions). [Please click here to download and feel free to share it with your friends and family.](#)

Here are this month's top stories to keep you informed:

STATE DEPARTMENT UPDATES VISA INTERVIEW REQUIREMENTS: APPLY IN YOUR COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE.

On September 6, 2025, the U.S. Department of State (DOS) announced new rules for scheduling nonimmigrant visa (NIV) interviews. Applicants must now generally schedule their appointments at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in their country of nationality or residence.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

NEW USCIS PAYMENT OPTION: DIRECT DEBIT VIA FORM G-1650.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced a new and secure way to pay filing fees.

Effective immediately (August 29, 2025): Applicants and petitioners can authorize direct debit (ACH) payments from a U.S. bank account by filing Form G-1650, Authorization for ACH Transactions, with their applications, petitions, or requests.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

USCIS REAFFIRMS GUIDANCE ON PUBLIC CHARGE INADMISSIBILITY: WHAT APPLICANTS AND SPONSORS NEED TO KNOW.

On September 4, 2025, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued Policy Memorandum PM-602-0190, reaffirming its guidance on how officers must

evaluate the Public Charge ground of inadmissibility under Section 212(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

ADVANCE PAROLE VS H-1B TRAVEL: UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS WHEN YOUR GREEN CARD IS PENDING.

When your green card (Form I-485 Adjustment of Status) is pending, international travel becomes a complicated decision. Many applicants rely on Advance Parole to leave and re-enter the United States. However, immigration attorneys caution that traveling with Advance Parole carries risks — and in many cases, it may be safer to maintain or return to H-1B status.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

HOW EMPLOYERS CAN PREPARE FOR A USCIS SITE VISIT.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has increased its focus on employer compliance, and one of the most visible tools is the unannounced site visit. These inspections are conducted by officers from the Fraud Detection and National Security (FDNS) directorate and are designed to confirm that the details in immigration petitions match what is happening in the workplace.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

VISA EXCEPTION FOR ATHLETES AND TEAMS: SPORTS EVENTS UNDER THE NEW ENTRY RESTRICTIONS.

On June 4, 2025, the President issued a proclamation suspending or limiting entry to the United States for nationals of 19 countries. However, the proclamation includes a specific carve-out for certain athletes and team members traveling to participate in major international sporting events.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

U.S. TO RESUME “NEIGHBORHOOD CHECKS” FOR CITIZENSHIP APPLICATIONS.

According to CBS News, the Trump administration is reinstating a long-discontinued practice of conducting “neighborhood checks” as part of the naturalization process for U.S. citizenship.

[To read more, Please click here . . .](#)

U.S. VISA HOLDERS FACE NEW “CONTINUOUS VETTING” POLICY AND ENFORCEMENT EXPANSION

On August 21, 2025, the U.S. Department of State (USDOS) confirmed that it is implementing a sweeping “continuous vetting” process affecting an estimated 55 million current U.S. visa holders. The initiative allows authorities to regularly review visa holders’ records for potential grounds of revocation and possible deportation.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

DOS VISA BULLETIN UPDATE: VISA BULLETIN FOR SEPTEMBER 2025 - IF YOUR "PRIORITY DATE" IS CURRENT, PLEASE LET US KNOW?

The September 2025 Visa Bulletin arrives with minimal movement as the fiscal year comes to an end. Most Employment-Based and Family-Based categories remain unchanged from August, signaling that annual visa limits are near or already reached. Demand remains high, and some categories are already unavailable. Here’s what you need to know. [Read more . . .](#)

[To view the current cutoff dates for each visa preference category and country of chargeability, please click here to access two charts provided by the U.S. Department of State's monthly visa bulletin.](#)

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION LAW NEWS.

CRIMINAL REHABILITATION FOR CANADA IMMIGRATION: A PATHWAY TO OVERCOME INADMISSIBILITY.

Canada takes criminal inadmissibility seriously, and individuals with past convictions may find themselves barred from entering the country — even for temporary visits.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

WORKING IN CANADA: PATHWAYS FOR BUSINESS VISITORS AND FOREIGN PROFESSIONALS.

For international companies looking to expand into Canada or send employees north of the border, it’s important to understand how Canada regulates temporary work and business activities. While most foreign nationals require a work permit to perform services in Canada, there are several exemptions and streamlined pathways that can make entry easier.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

CANADA SPOUSAL SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION MISTAKES AND HOW TO FIX THEM WITH IRCC.

Filing a spousal sponsorship application to reunite with your spouse or common-law partner in Canada is one of the most meaningful immigration steps a person can take. However, mistakes in the application are more common than many realize.

[To read more, please click here . . .](#)

NPZ's Immigration Insights: New YouTube Series on U.S. & Canadian Law

OUT OF STATUS & MARRIED TO A GREEN CARD HOLDER? YOUR IMMIGRATION OPTIONS EXPLAINED.



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**Out of Status & Married to a
Green Card Holder? Your
Immigration Options Explained**

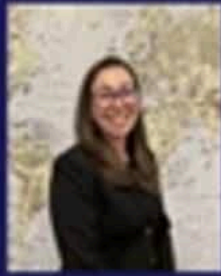
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US CITIZENSHIP GOOD MORAL CHARACTER REQUIREMENT NEW USCIS POLICY EXPLAINED.



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US Citizenship Good Moral
Character Requirement New
US Policy Explained



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UPCOMING EVENT

WORKFORCE IMMIGRATION IN 2025: WHAT HR NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT POLICY CHANGES AND COMPLIANCE

September 29, 2025

Time: 9:45pm-10:45pm

Venue: Atlantic City Convention Center (GSC SHRM 2025)

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