



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

Dear Reader,

As we welcome the spring season, the FY 2027 H-1B cap registration period closed last week, and employers and applicants are now awaiting the selection results. Once selections are announced, the focus will shift to preparing and filing complete H-1B petitions for those selected. For individuals who are not chosen, it is important to begin evaluating alternative visa options and longer-term strategies to maintain work authorization and continuity.

At the same time, government agencies are increasing scrutiny in areas of student employment, particularly STEM OPT. Recent enforcement efforts have highlighted concerns involving certain IT consulting, staffing, and recruitment companies, with authorities identifying patterns of suspected fraud such as non-operational worksites, inconsistent employer information, and students not engaging in actual employment. Students and employers should ensure that positions are legitimate, properly documented, and consistent with program requirements, and remain mindful of compliance obligations to avoid potential issues or disruptions. As many families and students prepare for spring break travel, those planning trips outside the United States should review current travel advisories carefully before departure.

If you have questions about international travel, visa validity, reentry issues, or possible travel-related risks, please contact our office before making final plans. We encourage you to stay informed as immigration and travel-related policies evolve. If you have any questions about how these changes may affect your status, workforce, or travel plans, please contact NPZ Law Group at [info@visaserve.com](mailto:info@visaserve.com) or call 201-670-0006 (ext. 104). Our experienced U.S. and Canadian immigration attorneys are ready to assist you.

**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:

### **H-1B LOTTERY NOT SELECTED? WORK VISA OPTIONS BEYOND THE H-1B CAP.**

Each year, USCIS receives far more H-1B registrations than the limited number of cap-subject visas available, making the lottery highly competitive for employers and foreign national professionals alike. As a result, many qualified candidates are not selected.

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

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### **HIRED AN EMPLOYEE BUT MISSED THE H-1B CAP? WHAT TO DO IF OPT IS EXPIRING SOON.**

Hiring international talent can be a valuable investment for U.S. employers. However, a common challenge arises when an employer hires a new employee working on Optional Practical Training (OPT), only to realize that the H-1B cap season has already passed or the employee was not selected in the lottery.

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

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### **H-1B SELECTED BUT DENIED? WHAT TO DO AFTER AN RFE OR PETITION DENIAL.**

Being selected in the H-1B lottery is a major milestone. However, selection alone does not guarantee approval. Many H-1B petitions receive Requests for Evidence (RFEs), and in some cases, petitions are ultimately denied.

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

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### **DHS ISSUES WARNING ON STEM OPT EMPLOYER FRAUD: WHAT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS NEED TO KNOW.**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), has recently issued an important alert regarding fraud concerns involving employers participating in the STEM Optional Practical Training (OPT) program.

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

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## **TRAVELING OUTSIDE THE U.S. AS A GREEN CARD HOLDER: HOW LONG IS TOO LONG?**

Lawful permanent residents (green card holders) often travel abroad for personal, professional, or family reasons. However, extended time outside the United States can raise serious concerns about whether permanent residence has been abandoned.

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

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## **I-751 JOINT FILING VS. WAIVER: WHAT IF YOUR MARRIAGE ENDS BEFORE REMOVING CONDITIONS?**

For many conditional permanent residents, filing Form I-751 to remove conditions on a green card is a critical step in maintaining lawful status in the United States. While most applicants file jointly with their spouse, not all marriages continue through the two-year conditional period.

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

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## **DOS VISA BULLETIN UPDATE: VISA BULLETIN FOR APRIL 2026 - IF YOUR "PRIORITY DATE" IS CURRENT, PLEASE LET US KNOW?**

The April 2026 Visa Bulletin reflects continued forward movement in select Employment-Based categories, while many others begin to stabilize following earlier gains in FY 2026. Family-Based categories remain largely steady, with only limited advancement. The Department of State appears to be carefully managing visa number usage as demand patterns become clearer this fiscal year . **[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.**

### **FROM H-1B TO CANADA PR: CAN YOU MOVE TO CANADA AND RETURN TO THE U.S. LATER?**

For skilled professionals on H-1B status, the U.S. green card backlog — particularly in EB-2 and EB-3 for Indian and Chinese nationals — can stretch for decades. As a result, many individuals are exploring Canada's Express Entry system as a parallel path:

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

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**CANADA EXPANDS IMMIGRATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRANSPORTATION PROFESSIONALS THROUGH EXPRESS ENTRY.**

Canada continues to refine its Express Entry system by expanding category-based selection rounds. Instead of inviting candidates solely based on CRS score, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is targeting specific occupations facing labour shortages.

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

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

**CAN YOU GET A MARRIAGE-BASED GREEN CARD IF YOU DO NOT LIVE TOGETHER?**



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**Can You Get a Marriage-Based Green Card If You Do Not Live Together?**

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**WHAT HAPPENS IF A GREEN CARD APPLICANT DIES? OPTIONS FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN IN THE U.S.**



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**What Happens to a Spouse and Children if the Green Card Applicant Dies While the Family is in the U.S.?**

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