



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

Dear Reader,

Beginning September 18, 2026, USCIS will apply a revised public charge standard to adjustment of status applications filed on or after that date. Applicants should be especially careful to use the correct edition of Form I-485 and make sure supporting financial and eligibility documentation is current before filing. The new public charge framework gives USCIS officers broader discretion to review the totality of an applicant's circumstances, making careful preparation even more important for cases filed under the new standard.

The Department of State has paused immigrant visa interviews worldwide while consular officers undergo new training on public charge screening, following the August 21, 2026 court ruling that struck down the earlier suspension affecting nationals of 75 countries. No end date has been announced, and applicants with previously scheduled interviews may receive notice that their appointment has been canceled and will be rescheduled later. Anyone with a pending consular case should confirm their appointment status directly with the relevant post rather than assuming an existing date still holds, and should hold off on finalizing travel plans until that's confirmed.

In a significant last-minute development, a federal judge in Massachusetts issued a nationwide injunction on September 14, 2026, blocking DHS's rule ending Duration of Status for F, J, and I nonimmigrants just one day before it was set to take effect. As a result, the prior Duration of Status system remains in place for now, and the fixed admission period changes are on hold nationwide while the litigation continues. This is a pause, not a final resolution, so students, exchange visitors, and

their schools should treat it as a reason to reassess rather than a permanent outcome.

We encourage you to stay informed as immigration and travel-related policies continue to evolve. If you have any questions about how these developments may affect your status, workforce, or travel plans, please contact NPZ Law Group at 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:

FEDERAL COURT HALTS DHS RULE ENDING DURATION OF STATUS, ONE DAY BEFORE IT WAS SET TO TAKE EFFECT.

There's a significant update to a rule we've been closely tracking: on September 14, 2026, a federal judge in Massachusetts issued a nationwide preliminary injunction blocking DHS's rule ending Duration of Status for F, J, and I nonimmigrants — just one day before the rule was scheduled to take effect.

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

AFTER SUPREME COURT DEFEAT, TRUMP SIGNS TWO NEW, NARROWER BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP ORDERS.

President Trump's push to limit birthright citizenship has taken a new shape. On August 6, 2026, roughly five weeks after his original 2025 order was struck down by the Supreme Court, the President signed two new executive orders that go after narrower slices of the same issue rather than reviving the broad approach the Court rejected.

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

EB-5 INVESTORS FACE NEW MEDICAL RFES AFTER USCIS TRANSFERS I-485 CASES TO TEXAS.

EB-5 investors with a pending Form I-485 case should pay close attention to their mail over the next few weeks. USCIS has recently moved a substantial batch of pending EB-5-based adjustment of status filings out of the California Service Center and into the Texas Service Center, and applicants whose cases were part of that move are starting to see a new kind of paperwork land in their mailbox: RFES asking for a fresh Form I-693 medical exam, with just 30 days on the clock to get it done.

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

F-1 AND J-1 VISA CHANGES 2026 END OF DURATION OF STATUS (DS), NEW STAY LIMITS AND OPT RULES.

Major changes affecting F-1 international students and J-1 exchange visitors are set to take effect on September 15, 2026. The new rule replaces Duration of Status (D/S) with fixed periods of admission, introduces an “Admit Until Date,” reduces the F-1 grace period from 60 to 30 days, and creates new requirements for extensions of stay and certain OPT applicants.

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

DOJ OPINION EXPANDS WHICH STATE AGENCIES MUST REPORT UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS TO DHS.

A new legal opinion from the Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) has significantly widened which state government offices are required to report individuals known to be unlawfully present in the United States to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

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

SEVP TIGHTENS F-1 VISA CPT ELIGIBILITY RULES IN 2026: WHAT STUDENTS, SCHOOLS AND EMPLOYERS NEED TO KNOW.

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has issued two significant updates concerning Curricular Practical Training (CPT), signaling increased scrutiny of when F-1 students may qualify for this type of practical training.

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

USCIS PROVIDES 30-DAY GRACE PERIOD FOR NEW FORM I-864 EDITION.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has provided a 30-day grace period for the transition to the new edition of Form I-864, Affidavit of Support Under Section 213A of the INA.

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

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

The September 2026 Visa Bulletin closes out Fiscal Year 2026 with significant forward movement in several family-sponsored categories, while the major

employment-based categories remain largely unchanged from August.

[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.

CAN IDENTITY FRAUD MAKE YOU INADMISSIBLE TO CANADA?

Identity fraud can create serious Canadian immigration consequences, including criminal inadmissibility and a separate finding of immigration misrepresentation.

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

CAN WORK PERMIT HOLDERS STUDY IN CANADA WITHOUT A STUDY.

A new temporary Canadian immigration policy gives eligible work permit holders more flexibility to pursue short-term education and training without obtaining a separate study permit.

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

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

THE DHANASAR STANDARD EXPLAINED: EB-2 NIW REQUIREMENTS.



THE KAZARIAN STANDARD EXPLAINED: WHY EB-1A GREEN CARDS GET DENIED.



UPCOMING EVENTS

GSC SHRM 2026: Immigration Enforcement: What Employers Need to Know in 2026

September 29, 2026
Time: 10:30am-11:30am
Venue: Atlantic City, NJ

IMMIGRATION POLICY UPDATE: WHAT'S CHANGED IN 2026

October 1, 2026
Time: 12:00pm-2:00pm
Venue: [Online via Zoom](#)

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