

The Informed Immigrant



Fall 2009

H-1B Visas Still Available!

As of September 18, 2009, USCIS received 46,000 of the 65,000 H-1B general cap visas. USCIS will continue to accept new applications until the cap is reached.

Can an InfoPass appointment help me?

InfoPass is the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' internet-based system that allows the public to make an appointment to speak with an Immigration Officer. InfoPass appointments can be useful in helping to answer difficult or complex issues. Speaking in person with an

Immigration Officer is also helpful when you are eligible for work authorization and your application has been pending for more than 90 days. In other cases, if you have not received a decision on your case and you have been waiting significantly longer than the processing timeframes, an Immigration Officer may be able to offer some insight into your case. Some individuals, however,

should not attend an InfoPass appointment, and should avoid contact with the immigration authorities at all costs. This is especially true for immigrants who have been ordered deported by an immigration judge or who are at high risk of deportation. In those circumstances, it is far better for the individual's attorney or representative to attend on his or her behalf.

New full U.S. pre-clearance program at Shannon

Shannon Airport launched its first full U.S. pre-clearance service in August 2009. The pre-existing pre-clearance agreement between the U.S. and Ireland was limited to immigration inspection only. Now, individuals traveling through Shannon can be pre-cleared for immigration, agricultural and customs inspections before leaving

Ireland. Flights arriving from Shannon are regarded as domestic arrivals with access to any airport within the U.S. Passengers are no longer required to undergo further checks on arrival to the U.S. Outside of the U.S., Canada, and Aruba, Shannon is the first airport to offer this comprehensive pre-clearance service. For the moment,

Shannon represents the only facility having full passenger and air crew pre-clearance in Europe. Dublin is expected to implement pre-clearance in summer 2010. The agreement between the U.S. and Irish governments is viewed as a milestone moment in Irish-U.S. relations.

What to expect at an immigration marriage interview in Boston

If your immigration marriage interview is scheduled at the Boston District Office, plan to spend about three hours at immigration to complete the interview process. There will be long lines at the building entrance so be sure to arrive early to avoid being late for your interview. Once pass security, you will need to check in with the receptionist in room E-170. DO NOT check-in until all parties have arrived. This means that you must wait for your U.S. citizen spouse, your interpreter if you have one, and your attorney if you have one, to be present before handing your

appointment notice to the receptionist. When you are called, the Immigration Officer will swear in you and your U.S. citizen spouse. You will then be asked to present your passport, identity document, birth certificate, and other immigration documents. The officer will begin the interview by asking questions about your background, such as your address and date and place of birth. Then, the officer will question you about your relationship and marriage. He will also ask for documents proving the genuineness of your marriage. Be sure you are prepared with

both a set of original documents for the officer's inspection and a copy for his files. It is best to listen carefully to the officer's questions and answer only the questions asked. Aggravating or confusing the officer is not in your interest. In the final part of the interview, the officer will ask questions to evaluate your desirability as a permanent resident. These are the questions under Part 3 of Form I-485. Always tell the truth. If the officer catches you in a lie, your green card may be denied. Your attorney would have prepared you for the interview and is there to step in and protect your rights.



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