

Instructions for Immigrant Visa Applicants

Overview

Introduction

You have been registered with the National Visa Center (NVC) to apply for a visa to immigrate to the United States. You must now obtain the documents required for your application for an immigrant visa and send them to NVC.

In this information

These instructions cover the following topics:

Topic	See Page
Application For Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration Forms DS-230 Part I and Part II	2
Documents you need to obtain and submit	3-5
➤ Document requirements	3
➤ Birth certificates	3
➤ Police certificates	4
➤ Passports	4
➤ Deportation papers	4
➤ Court and prison records	5
➤ Military records	5
➤ Marriage certificates	5
➤ Termination of prior marriages	5
➤ Translations	5
Children who are about to turn 21 years of age	6
What happens next?	7

Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration Forms DS-230 Part I and Part II

Background

The DS-230 Part I and Part II contain questions regarding specific biographical information required for the immigrant visa. A copy of each of form is included with this packet of information.

Who completes the forms

Each family member that is eligible to travel to the United States with you under this visa classification is required to complete the DS-230 Part I and Part II.

Completing the forms

Please fill out the DS-230 Part I and Part II completely. If a question does not apply to you then you must mark it with a N/A.

Note: Sign the Part I form only. The Part II form must be signed at the time of your visa interview.

Questions

If you have any questions on completing the DS-230 Part I or Part II, please contact the National Visa Center (NVC). The address and telephone number for NVC can be found on page 6 of this instruction packet.

When complete

Please send all the completed DS-230 Part I and Part II forms to the National Visa Center with the other documents requested in this information packet. Please use the enclosed envelope when returning the information.

Documents You Need to Obtain and Submit

Document requirements

Please obtain the *original documents* or *certified copies* from an appropriate authority for yourself and each family member who will accompany you to the United States. All documents that pertain to your petition are required, even if they were previously submitted to the INS with your petition.

Birth certificates

Submit the original, or certified copy, of the birth record of each family member (yourself, your spouse, and all unmarried children under the age of 21).

The certificate must contain the:

- Person's date of birth
 - Person's place of birth
 - Names of *both* parents, and
 - Annotation by the appropriate authority indicating that it is an extract from the official records
-

Unobtainable birth certificates

Your birth record may not be obtainable. Some reasons are listed below.

- Your birth was never officially recorded.
- Your birth records have been destroyed.
- The appropriate government authority will not issue one.

Please submit a certified statement from the appropriate government authority stating the reason your birth record is not available. With the certified statement you *must* submit secondary evidence. For example:

- A baptismal certificate that contains the date and place of birth and both parent's names providing the baptism took place shortly after birth
- An adoption decree for an adopted child, or
- An affidavit from a close relative, preferably the applicant's mother, stating the date and place of birth, both parent's names, and the mother's maiden name.

Note: An affidavit must be executed before an official authorized to take oaths or affirmations. Information regarding the procedures for obtaining birth certificates is usually available from the embassy or consulate of the country concerned.

Police certificates

Police certificates are required for each visa applicant aged 16 years or older. The table below shows how many police certificates are required based on where each applicant lives and has lived previously. Present and former residents of the United States should NOT obtain any police certificates covering their residence in the U.S.

IF the applicant...	AND...	THEN the applicant needs a police certificate from...
is living in their country of nationality at their current residence for more than 6 months	is 16 years old or older	the police authorities of that locality.
lived in a different part of their country of nationality for more than 6 months	was 16 years or older at that time	the police authorities of that locality.
lived in a different country for more than 12 months	was 16 years or older at that time	the police authorities of that locality.
was arrested for any reason, regardless of how long they lived there	was any age at that time	the police authorities of that locality.

The police certificate must

- Cover the entire period of the applicant's residence in that area, and
- State what the appropriate police authorities records show concerning each applicant, including all arrests, the reason for the arrest(s), and the disposition of each case of which there is a record.

Note: Police certificates from certain countries are unavailable. More specific information is available from NVC or the nearest United States immigrant visa processing post.

Passports

Submit a **photocopy** of the biographic data page of your and your individual family members' passports. This is the page that shows your name and date and place of birth.

Note: Do NOT send your passport(s) to the NVC, just the photocopy of the biographic data page.

Deportation

Applicants who have previously been deported or removed at government expense from the United States must obtain Form I-212, Permission to Reapply after Deportation, from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, or from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate, and follow the instructions included on that form.

**Court and
Prison Records**

Persons who have been convicted of a crime must submit a certified copy of each court record and any prison record, regardless of the fact that he or she may have subsequently benefited from an amnesty, pardon or other act of clemency.

Court records should include:

- Complete information regarding the circumstance surrounding the crime of which the applicant was convicted, and
 - The disposition of the case, including sentence or other penalty or fine imposed.
-

**Military
records**

Persons who have served in the military forces of any country must submit one copy of their military record.

Note: Military records from certain countries are unavailable. More specific information is available from NVC or the nearest United States immigrant visa processing post.

**Marriage
certificates**

Married applicants must submit an original marriage certificate, or a certified copy, bearing the appropriate seal or stamp of the issuing authority.

**Termination of
prior marriages**

Applicants who have been previously married must submit evidence of the termination of **EACH** prior marriage. Evidence must be in the form of original documents issued by a competent authority, or certified copies bearing the appropriate seal or stamp of the issuing authority.

Acceptable evidence is a:

- **FINAL** divorce decree
 - Death certificate, or
 - Annulment.
-

Translations

All documents not in English, or in the official language of the country in which application for a visa is being made, must be accompanied by certified English translations.

The translation must include a statement signed by the translator that states that the:

- Translation is accurate, and
 - Translator is competent to translate.
-

Children who are about to Reach 21 Years of Age

Important Information

If you have children who intend to immigrate with you to the United States, or to join you in the United States at a later date, please read this important information.

In order to immigrate with you to the United States, or to follow you at a later date, your children **must** be:

- Unmarried
- Eligible to be listed under your visa classification, and
- Under the age of 21 at the time they enter the United States.

Note: Children of mothers, fathers or spouses of United States citizens, must have separate immigrant visa petitions filed on their behalf.

Notify NVC by telephone

If any of your children will turn 21 within 60 days, please notify the National Visa Center (NVC) immediately. Please call (603) 334-0700

- Listen to the recorded messages
- Enter your case number or INS receipt number at the appropriate time, and
- You will be connected to an operator for assistance.

Note: If visas will be available in your category prior to your son or daughter's birthday, we will expedite processing of your case in order to ensure that your son or daughter will be able to immigrate with you. Unfortunately, we cannot assist you if visas are not available in your category prior to your son or daughter's birthday.

Notify NVC by mail

If you want to notify NVC in writing, NVC's mailing address is:

National Visa Center
Attention: P4
32 Rochester Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Failure to notify NVC

Failure to notify NVC that you have a child who will turn 21 could result in that child being above the legal age at the time your visa is issued. In that event, you will be required to file a separate petition for your child after you immigrate, and your son or daughter will face a waiting period before he or she will be eligible for visa processing.

What Happens Next?

Overview

The table below provides you with an overview of the steps that take place once you have obtained all your documents and have completed the necessary forms.

Step	Action
1	Mail all requested information along with your fees using the enclosed envelope.
2	NVC will complete all necessary administrative processing of your immigrant visa application. You may be requested to provide additional information if you have incomplete or are missing documents.
3	Approximately one month before your scheduled interview appointment with a consular officer, you will receive an appointment letter containing the date and time of your visa interview along with instructions for obtaining a medical examination.

Getting your documents back

You will receive your original documents back at the time of the visa interview.

Note: Only one original or certified copy of each document must be submitted with the visa application. You are advised, however, to obtain the necessary documents in duplicate, as this will enable you to provide identical copies in the event the first set is lost or damaged.

When to call or write

NVC cannot guarantee how long it may be before you are scheduled for an appointment for a visa interview. Please call or write to us if the circumstances of your application have changed. For example:

- Change of address
- Change of marital status
- Death of petitioner
- Birth or adoption of additional children, or
- NVC has requested additional information

Note: NVC's address and telephone number are listed on page 6.

**Supplementary Instructions on the Instructions for Immigrant Visa Applicants form
for Canadian Applicants**

Immigrant visa processing at the American Consulate General in Montreal is limited to Canadian citizens and landed immigrants; non-Canadians who reside temporarily in Canada and have the permission of the Canadian government to remain in Canada for at least six months; and persons now residing in the U.S. whose most recent foreign residence was in Canada. "Most recent foreign address in Canada" means that you were a student, temporary worker, or landed immigrant in Canada for at least six months immediately prior to moving to the U.S.

PROOF OF RESIDENCE – If you are not a Canadian citizen, you must provide the NVC: a copy of your Landed Immigrant papers or a copy of your visa that states that you may legally remain in Canada for at least six more months.

If you currently reside in the United States and are not a Canadian citizen, you must provide the NVC: a copy of your Landed Immigrant papers or a copy of your visa that states that you could legally reside in Canada for at least six months prior to your entering the United States.

POLICE CERTIFICATES – Residents of Canada can obtain a Canadian Police Certificate by applying with our computerized printout and this form to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Detachment nearest their place of residence. You are not required to obtain police certificates from individual places where you may have resided in Canada. The RCMP certificate must be no more than six months old at the time you enter the United States.

Former Residents of Canada should not obtain police certificates from the communities in which they lived in Canada. The only acceptable police certificate for former residents of Canada is the certificate issued by the RCMP, Ottawa, Ontario. To apply for this certificate, the applicant must go to the nearest police station, present this form letter, show identification, and be fingerprinted. The fingerprints should be marked "VISA ONLY" and forwarded to the Commissioner, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, P.O. Box 8885, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 3M8, Canada (Attention: Ident. Control, Civil Section).

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES – Married applicants must present a CIVIL marriage certificate bearing the appropriate seal or stamp of the CIVIL authority. Church and other religious certificates are not acceptable.

CHILD CUSTODY – The Canadian divorce Decree Nisi (not the Decree Absolute) usually contains this information, but other original court custody documents (or certified copies bearing the appropriate seal or stamp of the issuing authority) are acceptable.

TRANSLATION – If the original document is in a language OTHER THAN French, the translation must be certified by a competent translator and sworn before a Notary Public. If the document is in French, it must be translated but does not need to be notarized.