



Joseph Law Firm^{PC}

Immigration Law Specialists

Newsletter

January/February 2015

IMMIGRATION REFORM PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Please join us on one of the following dates at the Mexican Cultural Center for a presentation and discussion on President Obama's Executive Action and Immigration Reform and how it may impact your family:

Por favor, acompáñenos en una de las siguientes fechas para una presentación y discusión sobre la Acción Ejecutiva del Presidente Obama, Reforma Migratoria y el impacto que esto pueda tener en su familia:

Wednesday, February 11th at 6:30pm
Sunday, February 22nd at 2:00pm
Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30pm
Sunday, March 15th at 2:00pm

Miércoles, 11 de febrero a las 6:30pm
Domingo, 22 de febrero a las 2:00pm
Miércoles, 11 de marzo a las 6:30pm
Domingo, 15 de marzo a las 2:00pm

The Mexican Cultural Center is located at:

5350 Leetsdale Drive, Suite 200 W
Denver, CO 80246

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MEXICAN CONSULATE WILL BEGIN ISSUING COPIES OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES REGISTERED IN MEXICO

Contributed by Aaron Hall, Partner

Mexico has announced that beginning on January 15, 2015, Mexican consulates in the United States will issue certified copies of birth certificates registered in Mexico. This new service will be a great convenience for Mexicans in Denver needing a copy of the birth certificate (for immigration-related applications or for any other reason).

In order to request a certified copy of a birth certificate, proof of identity must be presented at the consulate. Also, the consulate requests the Clave Única de Registro de Población (CURP) if the person has one. The fee for each certified copy will be \$13.

Those interested in obtaining a certified copy of their birth certificate can get more information at the toll free number Centro de Información y Asistencia a Mexicanos (CIAM): 1-855-463-6395.

The Mexican Consulate in Denver is located at 5350 Leetsdale Drive #100, Denver, CO 80246.



CHANGES TO DMV PROCESSING OF DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR IMMIGRANTS

Contributed by Jennaweh Hondrogiannis, Associate Attorney

With the passing of SB251 last year, the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) began issuing Colorado driver's licenses to qualifying undocumented immigrants. Since the program began, there have been five locations equipped to process applications for these types of driver's licenses in Colorado. However, due to recent budget restraints, the DMV will only have one office capable of processing these applications. Last week, the Joint Budget Committee twice voted against the DMV's use of funds from the program's fees to maintain the five locations processing these types of applications. Thus, the only location where SB251 driver's licenses can be processed is the Denver Central Office. While there were long wait lists prior to the Joint Budget Committee's vote, the wait period is expected to increase by years for this appointment-only program. The DMV now has 31 appointments available per day whereas before the vote, there were 155 appointments.



If you have any questions about the recent changes to this program or your eligibility for a driver's license under this program, call to speak to one of our experienced immigration attorneys at 303-297-9171.

DHS EXTENDS TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS TO EL SALVADOR

Contributed by Melanie Corrin, Partner

On January 7, 2015 the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) extended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to El Salvadorans who qualified and applied during the designated time and who received TPS from the government. This move is a welcome and much needed recognition of the tens of thousands of individuals present in the United States who remain in need of protection from return to El Salvador. The extension is valid until September 6, 2016.

THE DAPA GROUNDHOG WILL SEE HIS SHADOW

Contributed by Kim Tremblay, Associate Attorney

February is the month we celebrate Valentine's Day, President's Day, the Chinese New Year, and some lesser known days (Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day and Blame Someone Else Day, just to name a few). Some also celebrate Groundhog's Day on February 2nd, the mid-point of winter. Coincidentally, February is also the mid-point between the President's November 20, 2014 announcement on Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) and the actual projected May beginning of the program.



Legend goes that if the groundhog sees his shadow upon emerging from the ground on February 2nd, there will be six more weeks of winter. If he does not, spring should be right around the corner. More details about DAPA were supposed to come out in January, but none have emerged thus far. Recently, government representatives holding a stakeholder conference call regarding the program did not announce a date for the guidance. They only mentioned that guidance would be available before the program starts. It looks like potential DAPA applicants and their representatives are going to have to suffer through the cold a little while longer.

Potential DACA applicants can watch out for emerging details about the program at USCIS.gov and can still prepare themselves by consulting an attorney or accredited representative to determine whether they appear to meet the basic requirements announced in November.



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