

Thank you for contacting our office regarding permanent residence. The purpose of this letter is to notify you of a substantial shift in the priority dates in the 3rd preference Employment-Based Visa Category. Beginning June 1, 2007, visas will be available to clients born in India who have an approved labor certification filed prior to June 1, 2003. Visas will be available to clients born in any other country besides Mexico, China, and the Philippines (i.e. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Sri Lanka) who have an approved labor certification filed prior to June 1, 2005.

We also wanted to notify you of an upcoming change to the way in which the Department of Labor and Department of Homeland Security will handle labor certifications. Substitution of beneficiary on an approved labor certification (including those approved under PERM) will be prohibited after July 16, 2007. Additionally, an approved labor certification granted before July 16, 2007 will expire 180 calendar days from July 16, 2007 if not filed in support of a Form I-140 Petition with the Department of Homeland Security. Any labor certifications granted on or after July 16, 2007 will expire within 180 calendar days if not filed in support of Form I-140 Petition with the Department of Homeland Security.

Whether you apply for permanent residence at home or abroad, you will want to begin obtaining the following documents, if you do not already have them in your possession.

1. birth certificate for you and any family members;
2. a marriage certificate, if you are married;
3. divorce decrees or other proof of the termination of any prior marriages;
4. current passport(s) valid for at least the next year or two;
5. police certificates from any country in which you have resided for more than one year after the age of 16 (this is only required if you will be processing through an American consulate outside the United States); and
6. a military certificate if you have served in your country's military (needed only if you are processing abroad).

At the end of this process, you will be granted permanent residence and issued a "green card." Of course, neither I nor any other competent attorney can *guarantee* success of any case because of the wide array of factors over which we have no control. We realize this process is very important to you. Please do not hesitate to contact one of my staff or me should you have any questions. We look forward to being of service to you until your permanent residence is granted.

Sincerely,

George R. Willy P.C.

