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Immigration Law Updates

June 23, 2009

Further Delay in Implementation of Rule Requiring Federal Contractors to Use E-Verify System

Implementation of the final rule requiring federal contractors and subcontractors to begin using U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' E-Verify system has been delayed until September 8, 2009.

On June 5, 2009, the Federal Acquisitions Regulatory (F.A.R.) Council published an amendment in the Federal Register postponing the applicability of the final rule until September 8, 2009. The rule was first published on November 14, 2008 requiring federal contractors and subcontractors to agree to electronically verify the employment eligibility of their employees.

For more information, please contact our law firm.

Detroit Passport Agency is Open for Business

The Detroit Passport Agency opened its doors for business on March 16, 2009. The agency is located in downtown Detroit at 211 West Fort Street, just minutes from the Ambassador Bridge and the Detroit/ Windsor Tunnel, and is one of 15 passport agencies open to the public.

The office accepts U.S. citizens who are planning travel within 14 days. It has the capability to issue U.S. passport books on site to qualifying applicants and will also have the capability to issue the new U.S. passport cards in late Spring 2009.

The Detroit Passport Agency
211 West Fort Street, 2nd Floor
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3269

Hours of Operation, **by appointment only**: 9 am to 3 pm, Eastern time
Monday through Friday except Federal holidays

For more information, please contact our law firm.

USCIS Begins Transfer of Historical A-Files to National Archives

On June 3, 2009, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the National Archives and Records Administration implemented a formal schedule to begin the transfer of alien registration files (A-files) for permanent retention at the National Archives. Archival processing of approximately 135,000 files could be completed by next summer and available for public access.

The A-file is a series of records consisting of numbered files used to document the complete history of the interaction between an alien and the U.S. government. The file is unique in that it not only contains routine demographic information, but may also include photographs, foreign birth certificates, marriage licenses, interview transcripts or actual recordings, and more. Currently, the USCIS maintains approximately 53 million A-files.

Previously, the A-file was considered a temporary record and could have been disposed of 75 years from the date the file was retired to a Federal Records Center or 75 years from the date of last action. Now, the A-files will become a permanent record which will be transferred to National Archives custody 100 years from the individual's date of birth. Newly eligible files will be transferred to the National Archives every 5 years.

Additional immigration related information and links to resources for genealogical research is available online at www.uscis.gov/genealogy or www.archives.gov/immigration/.

For more information on this topic, please contact our law firm.

The information contained in this e-newsletter is intended as information only, and is not to be construed as legal advice.



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