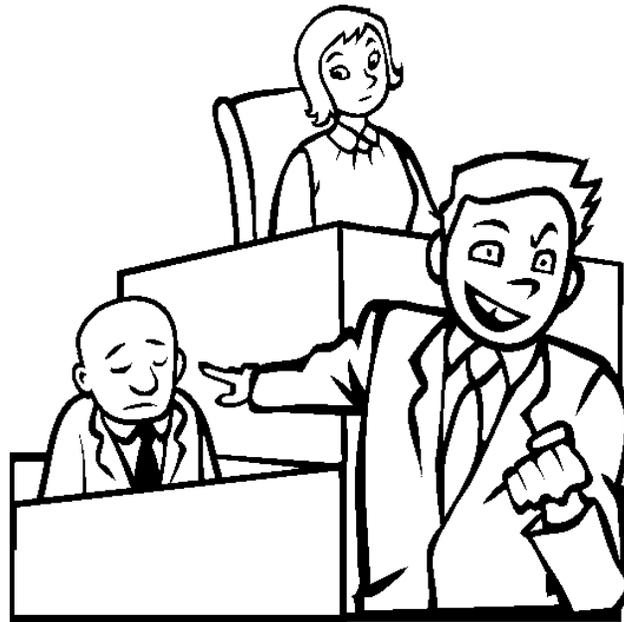


COMBATING IMMIGRATION PROVIDER FRAUD

A TRAINING GUIDE TO HELP YOU:

- **Educate your clients and your community members about fraudulent immigration service providers and unscrupulous lawyers.**
- **Incorporate consumer fraud education into presentations about immigration.**
- **Spread the word in the immigrant community about common immigration fraud scams.**



**Prepared by
Immigrant Legal Resource Center**

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction..... | 1 |
| “Know Your Rights” Handout..... | 3 |
| Overview of Consumer Fraud..... | 4 |
| Ten-Year Benefit Green Card Scam..... | 5 |
| Ten-Year Benefit Scam Skit..... | 6 |
| Labor Certification Green Card Scam..... | 10 |
| Labor Certification Skit..... | 11 |
| Disability Waiver Naturalization Scam..... | 12 |
| Disability Waiver Naturalization Skit..... | 13 |
| DREAM Act Pre-Registration Scam..... | 15 |
| DREAM Act Pre-Registration Skit..... | 16 |
| Conclusion..... | 19 |
| Evaluation Sheet for Presenters..... | 21 |
| Local Resources for Immigration Services Handout..... | 22 |

Introduction

Immigration consultants, sometimes known as *notarios*, and fraudulent immigration attorneys can prey on immigrants and their U.S. citizen relatives by committing immigration service provider fraud. The problem of immigration service provider fraud is widespread in many immigrant communities and the consequences are severe. Some fraudulent immigrant service providers may violate immigrants' consumer rights by keeping their clients' original documents or may charge large amounts of money for work that is never performed. Even worse, some service providers file incorrect or inapplicable paperwork with USCIS (immigration agency), triggering interviews, investigations and often deportation proceedings.

Immigration service provider fraud affects not only the person who has been directly victimized, but it also impacts his or her spouse and children. U.S. citizens and permanent resident family members of undocumented immigrants risk family separation and upheaval when loved ones are placed in deportation proceedings as a result of fraud. It is important that organizations that work with immigrants alert their clients about the dangers of immigration service provider fraud.

At its core, immigration service provider fraud is a consumer protection issue. Immigrant and low-income populations should be no less aggressive about asserting their rights than any other consumers. Under California's Immigration Consultants Act, a consumer has the right to receive a written contract in the consumer's own language and 72 hours in which to cancel and get a full refund. These rights and others are codified in the California Business and Professional Code in sections 22441.1 – 22445 and are described in plain language in the enclosed "Know Your Rights" handout.

The lesson plans in this packet include general overviews of the scams and skits depicting four common immigration service provider scams. The approximate time for each of the skits is provided so the educator can choose which material to use depending on how much time is available for the presentation. There is a short questionnaire at the end of the packet. The Immigrant Legal Resource Center encourages organizations to share with us any new immigration service provider scams that may be reported in their specific geographic area.

How to Use this Curriculum

The anti-fraud curriculum is part of a toolkit that includes a written curriculum, fliers, comic books and a training video. Each piece of the toolkit is meant to help community based organizations work with immigrants to identify immigration service provider scams so that immigrants can avoid them and seek reputable legal help. To obtain the toolkit materials, please go to the www.ilrc.org.

We recommend viewing the video presentation first before presenting the curriculum. The video covers the “10 Year Benefit” scam which is included in the curriculum. Viewing the video first will give you an overview of how to present the skit to an audience and ideas for discussion. The video is available on DVD or you can download the video from <http://blip.tv/file/2273941/>. The video length is about 14 minutes and 23 seconds.

Some of our community partners have thought of creative ways to present this material to immigrant communities. For example, English as a Second Language (ESL) and Citizenship teachers have used the comic books, which are available in English, Spanish and Chinese, as a way to help their students improve their reading and oral language skills. Similarly, the role plays in the curriculum can be a way to work with students to read the scripts out loud in class. In this way, the curriculum involves and encourages the students to participate in the discussion about fraud and helps students practice their language skills.

Each presentation description provides an estimate of the time required to present the material and the number of people needed for each skit. As a presenter, you may consider inviting additional staff members who can play the roles that call for audience volunteers, in the event that audience members are too shy to volunteer.

The curriculum also covers other scams that have been identified in the community, such as the “Labor Certification,” “Disability Waiver,” and “Dream Act Pre-Registration” scams. All of these skits are meant to help identify the scams and get immigrant community members to discuss the ways in which they can avoid them and seek authorized legal expertise. Immigration law is very complex and the curriculum is not designed to give legal advice, but instead is designed to help community based organizations identify the fraud and refer immigrants to the appropriate legal experts. The referral sheets provide contact information for various non-profits that can provide legal help.

The toolkit is meant to be distributed. We encourage community based organizations to use these materials and share them with others in the community. Please feel free to contact the Immigrant Legal Resource Center to request a toolkit.

Know Your Rights under the Immigration Consultants Act:

California has a law that gives you rights if you decide to hire an immigration consultant.

Right to a contract:

- First, you have a right to get a written contract that describes the work you are hiring the immigration consultant to do.
 - o The contract that you and the immigration consultant both sign must be written in your own language.
 - o The contract must include:
 - The services you are hiring him or her to perform.
 - The cost of those services.
 - Your right to cancel – If you decide within 72 hours that you don't want to hire the immigration consultant after all, the immigration consultant is required to give you your money back.

Right to keep your documents and copies of papers filed:

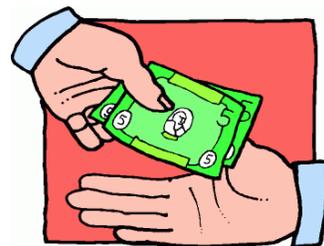
- Second, your documents, like birth certificates or passports, belong to you. It is against the law for an immigration consultant to keep your original papers.
- Third, the immigration consultant must give you copies of any immigration papers that he or she files for you.

An immigration consultant must be licensed:

- There must be a sign in the office saying the immigration consultant has paid a bond to the state of California and has a valid license. You can check to see if the license is valid at http://www.ss.ca.gov/business/sf/bond_search.htm
- There must be a sign in the office saying that the immigration consultant is **not a lawyer**.
 - o These signs must be in both English and in your language.
- An immigration consultant cannot take payment for referring you to someone else or for any other work that he or she does not actually do for you.

An immigration consultant cannot “get favors” from CIS:

- It is against the law for an immigration consultant to tell you – in writing or verbally – that he or she has influence with the USCIS (formerly called the INS).
- It is against the law for an immigration consultant to represent to you that he or she might be able to get a favor from someone at USCIS.



Overview of Consumer Fraud

(Presenter to read or paraphrase)

Good morning/afternoon. Thanks for inviting us to talk with you about immigration service provider fraud. How many of you think you have friends or family members who have thought about hiring a lawyer or an immigration consultant to help with immigration paperwork?

Well, not everyone you pay for immigration help is honest. We are here to talk with you about some of the ways that some immigration consultants and some lawyers trick people into signing papers that won't actually get you a green card and may get you deported.

But first, let's talk about the importance of making careful decisions about who you choose to pay for important services. For example, when considering child care services, you probably think carefully about with whom you leave your child. I am sure that you would want to ask the person providing you those services about their background and their services. In a similar way, when you look to hire someone to help with your immigration papers, make sure the person you choose is respected in your community. Immigration service providers, if not chosen carefully, can also lead to bad results that can impact your family. When you are seeking help from an immigration consultant or a notario, they are providing you with a service. Just like any other service provider, you have the right to question their credentials, the amount they're charging you, and their service methods.

Immigration consultants in the United States sometimes also call themselves *notarios*. What is an immigration consultant or notario, here in the United States? What can they help you do? An immigration consultant only helps you complete forms that you have already chosen to complete, verify signatures, and make *free* referrals to lawyers who can provide representation. In the United States, *notarios* are not allowed to give legal advice, represent clients in courts, or in immigration interviews. In California, it is illegal for immigration consultants to refer to themselves as *notarios*, to make false or misleading statements, or make any guarantees of promises that are not based on any factual information.

There are some honest places to go for help with immigration papers that will not charge you any money at all or charge a small amount. We have a list of free or low-cost non-profit organizations where you can go for help. We will hand that out at the end of our presentation.

If you do choose to pay someone to help you with your immigration papers, there are many different scams, or tricks, that dishonest immigration consultants and some lawyers use to make people believe they will get green cards. We will describe some of the most common scams, but first, we want to tell you about the rights that you as a customer or client have if you choose to hire an immigration consultant. We are going to pass out a list of these rights for you to keep and to share with your friends and family.

Ten-Year Benefit Green Card Scam Description

(Presenter to read or paraphrase description)

Time and People Required: 30 minutes, 2 trainers and 1 volunteer.

We will begin with a common scam that people who are undocumented in California might hear about. Some people might tell you that if you have been in the United States for 10 years or more, you can easily become a permanent resident (a green card holder). It is untrue and in fact, the next scam we are going to talk about almost always results in people getting deported.

First, a fraudulent immigration service provider (immigration consultant or attorney) will tell you that they will represent you in a hearing to grant permanent residency. The immigration service provider will then ask you to sign an application. If that person asks you to sign an application, read any paperwork very carefully. It is your right to have the entire document translated into your language before you sign anything.

Often, the document you will be asked to sign is an asylum application the immigration service provider knows will not be granted. Asylum is only available to people who have suffered or have a well-founded fear of persecution in their home country. Fraudulent immigration service providers use the asylum application process to place unsuspecting immigrants into removal (deportation) proceedings. It is extremely important that an applicant understand what asylum is and the consequences of filing for asylum when the applicant is not eligible.

Once the immigration consultant sends in the asylum application, you will be asked to meet with a USCIS officer for an asylum interview. If you do not qualify for asylum, you will be put into removal (i.e. deportation) proceedings and have to appear in front of an immigration judge.

Sometimes fraudulent immigration consultants work this scam with a lawyer. The immigration consultant will usually refer you to a lawyer who will then ask you to pay more money so the lawyer can represent you in immigration court. The lawyer will ask the judge to withdraw the asylum application and then apply for a “cancellation of removal” to stop the deportation proceedings. Fraudulent immigration service providers use the asylum process for this because they cannot apply for “cancellation of removal” unless the immigrant is in removal proceedings first.

Cancellation of removal is difficult to win. The applicant not only has to show that he or she has been here for the past 10 years, but there are several other requirements too. One requirement includes showing that that deportation will cause “exceptional and extremely unusual hardship” to the applicant’s parent, spouse or child (under 21) who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. For example, this means that if the entire family is undocumented, an applicant cannot apply for cancellation of removal. An “exceptional and extremely unusual hardship” is a very high standard. Fraudulent immigration service providers very often do not explain any of these requirements to their clients and instead

focus on selling the false idea that a person who has been in the United States for 10 years would qualify for cancellation of removal. Be careful when an immigration service provider tells you that you can get a green card by filing asylum application after living in the United States for 10 years. This is a “red flag” and you should get another opinion from a local legal aid office, non-profit, or a reputable immigration lawyer in your community before you sign any paperwork.

Ten-Year Benefit Scam Skit

(Distribute one copy to an audience volunteer and one to each of two trainers)

Trainer 1: So, does someone want to help us act out what might happen if you go to an immigration consultant to ask about an application for a green card? [Select person from the audience.] What is your name? Okay, so in this skit, [volunteer's name] has been living in the United States for eleven years and has two young children who were born here and are going to school. [Name of Trainer 2] will play the immigration consultant.

Immigration Consultant [Trainer 2]: How are you today? Thank you for coming to my office. Would you like help with your immigration papers?

Volunteer: Yes, I hope you can help me. I have been living here for eleven years and I would really like to become a permanent resident.

Immigration Consultant: Great. We can file this paper and start the process to get your green card since you've been living here for more than ten years. Do you have children who are citizens?

Volunteer: Yes, my children are in elementary school. They were born here.

Immigration Consultant: And do you have a criminal record?

Volunteer: No.

Immigration Consultant: [Hands over the **asylum I-589** application form]. Then you should qualify. Just sign here at the bottom.

Volunteer: What does this say on the top of the form?

Immigration Consultant: Oh, don't pay any attention to what it says on the top there. We do this all the time. I'll just file this for you. You don't need to keep a copy. Okay, I will write out your bill for the \$3000 you owe me now.

Trainer 1: **And then a few months pass and you get a notice saying that you must appear before a CIS officer for an asylum hearing. So you come back to the immigration consultant's office to ask what is going on.**

Immigration Consultant: Hi, it's so nice to see you again.

Volunteer: I am back because I got this notice to appear before CIS to explain why I qualify for asylum. What is asylum? I thought I would get a green card because I lived here 10 years. That's what you said.

Immigration Consultant: Well, just do your best with the CIS interview. It's no big deal. They are just going to ask you a couple of questions. If it doesn't work out we will

just call my friend who is a lawyer. She can represent you if CIS says you have to appear before an immigration judge.

Volunteer: What do you mean, an immigration judge? I thought all I had to do was fill out some papers!

Immigration consultant: Well, sometimes it gets more complicated. Come back and see me after your interview with CIS.

Trainer 1: In this next scene, I will play the CIS officer. So, you can go ahead and stay seated. We will have the CIS officer sit here for your interview.

CIS officer [Trainer 1]: Thank you for showing up for your asylum interview. This application says that you have a fear of political persecution in your home country. Can you explain why your government will put you in jail if you return home?

Volunteer: I don't want to go back to my country because this is my home now. My children are in school here and I have been living here for eleven years.

CIS officer: That does not qualify you for asylum. I will have to notify the immigration court that you do not qualify for asylum and file paperwork to start proceedings to remove you from this country. You can explain your situation to the immigration judge.

Trainer 2: So, now [name of volunteer] returns to the immigration consultant.

Volunteer: CIS told me that I have to appear before an immigration judge and I got a notice that says I am in deportation proceedings. What happened?

Immigration consultant [Trainer 2]: This is okay. The lawyer can help you. She can say that it would be terrible hardship for your children to have to move if you were deported.

Trainer 1: At this point, [name of volunteer] goes to court to present [his/her] case to the immigration judge.

Judge [played by Trainer 1]: I see that your lawyer has asked the court to withdraw your asylum application and instead allow you to apply for cancellation of removal. Is that correct?

Volunteer: Yes.

Judge: Were your children born here in the U.S.?

Volunteer: Yes.

Judge: Are your children in good health?

Volunteer: Yes.

Judge: Are they doing well in school?

Volunteer: Yes. They want to stay in the US and not move away.

Judge: Well, just because your children don't want to move is not enough. You have to have relatives such as a spouse, children or parents who are US citizens or lawful permanent residents. However, your relatives, such as your US citizen children, must suffer **exceptional and extremely unusual hardship**. This means that your US citizen children must suffer something that is so rare that it not likely to be addressed in your country of citizenship. I am going to deport you because you cannot show **exceptional and extremely unusual** hardships will be suffered by your close family who are citizens or permanent residents. This is a special exception that is only granted for a few people.

Summary for Audience

Trainers: Thank you very much for helping us out! You can take your seat again. So, you see that the immigration consultant actually filed a paper that says "asylum" on the top. Asylum is only for people who suffered past persecution or fear future persecution in their home countries. If you don't really qualify for asylum, then filing an asylum application means that you will be put into deportation proceedings.

Certain immigrants might be eligible for relief called cancellation of removal, which is not the same thing as asylum. Cancellation of removal has separate requirements and can only be sought once in removal proceedings. The reason why some fraudulent immigration service providers use the asylum application is so that they can trigger removal (deportation) proceedings and then apply for cancellation of removal. Once an undocumented immigrant is in removal proceedings, then he or she may apply for cancellation of removal, if they qualify. The immigration court will determine if an applicant meets the requirements which are tough to meet. For example, not only would an immigrant have to show they he or she has been here ten years and but they have to show that his or her U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse, parents or children will suffer exceptional and extremely unusual hardships. Cancellation of removal is rarely granted because the standards are difficult to meet.

It is very important to understand the documents you are signing. Do not sign documents that are not in your own language. Even if an immigration consultant encourages you to lie on an application, you should never lie on an application because the consequences can be long term and severe. You may not have the opportunity to change false statements that you have made in the past, so be very careful to understand what you are signing.

Because of the complexities of immigration law, it is best that you avoid an immigration consultant, and consult a reputable immigration lawyer, legal aid society or non-profit.

Questions:

Does anyone have questions about this kind of scam?

How could this have been prevented?

What steps might you take to make sure you don't become a victim of this scam?

How would one find a reputable immigration lawyer [consult referral sheet]?

Labor Certification Scam Description

(Presenter to read or paraphrase)

Time and People Required: 20 minutes, 2 trainers and 1 volunteer.

Trainer 1:

Has anyone heard that a person can get a labor certification that leads to a green card based on certain types of employment skills? Do you know the kind of jobs that one can apply for and get a labor certification?

Be careful! An immigration consultant and/or attorney may convince you to apply for a labor certification that does not exist. You are only eligible for a labor certification if you have skills that American workers do not have. For example, you cannot get a labor certification if you are a dishwasher or other unskilled employee. In addition, you cannot get a green card through a labor certification if you have been in the U.S. illegally for more than 6 months. Someone at your job might tell you that you can get a green card through your job, but if your position is considered an “unskilled position” getting a green card through work is not likely.

Would any of you like to help us act out a visit to an immigration consultant to ask about a labor certification? Trainer 1 will play the immigration consultant, or *notario*, who is offering to help people get a labor certification in order to get a green card.

Labor Certification Scam Skit

(Distribute one copy to an audience volunteer)

Notario [Trainer 1]: Hi, how are you today [volunteer's name]?

Customer [audience volunteer]: Fine. My husband heard at his job that we can get green cards because we work.

Notario: This is true – you can apply for a labor certification to get a green card. What kind of work do you and your husband do?

Customer: My husband and I work in restaurants as dishwashers. We have been working at our jobs for three years.

Notario: Well, we should be able to get you sponsored for a labor certification and get a green card based on your jobs. Let me give you these papers for you and your supervisor to fill out.

Customer: Is it okay that we have been working here without a green card or a visa for three years?

Notario: Yes, of course.

Customer: Will they fire me because I have been working without a green card or a visa?

Notario: No, everything will be fine. Bring back the papers to me and I'll call you after your labor certification is approved. You can pay me now.

Discussion Questions:

Trainer 2: Thank you so much for your help [volunteer's name]! What do you think went wrong in this skit?

There are at least five ways that the notario did not act honestly:

- People who work in unskilled jobs, like dishwashing, do not qualify for a labor certification.
- The notario has filled out labor certification papers with information about [name]'s and her husband's employers. This means that the employers could get in trouble and [name] and her husband could lose their jobs even if they don't end up in deportation proceedings.
- The notario asked for payment in advance, without having filled out any paperwork.
- The notario did not write up a contract in the customer's language that described the work she is going to do.
- Any other problems you can identify?
- Does anyone have any questions?

Disability Waiver Naturalization Scam

(Presenter to read or paraphrase)

Time and People Required: 20 minutes, 2 trainers and 1 volunteer.

The next scam we are going to talk about involves the naturalization test. This test, which covers U.S. history, government and English, is required for becoming a U.S. citizen. Has anyone heard that sometimes elderly people do not have to take the English, history and government components of naturalization test if the subjects are too difficult for them to learn or remember?

An immigration consultant or attorney may tell you that you are exempt from the English, history and government questions in the naturalization exam if you get a disability waiver. They can take advantage of you if you do not know the requirements to prove that you have a disability. You then pay a lot of money to the immigration consultant and/or attorney for the citizenship application and the disability waiver. There also a risk that USCIS may find that you were not honest about having a disability.

What happens if you lie and say you have a disability when you don't? Falsely stating that you have a disability when you do not meet the requirements can make you unable to apply for naturalization because of bad moral character for another 5 years.

It is wrong for an attorney, or any immigration service provider, to commit these scams. An attorney may lose his or her license to practice if it is discovered that he or she has been providing bad information in order to scam people.

Disability Waiver Naturalization Skit

(Distribute one copy to an audience volunteer)

This a scam commonly targeted toward elderly people, so many of you will want to look out and make sure this scam is not done to elderly community members. Mr. Chin has been present in the U.S. for over 40 years. Mr. Chin is a lawful permanent resident of the U.S. His children, who are U.S. citizens, have encouraged him to take the naturalization exam. However, his daughter is concerned that Mr. Chin no longer remembers information the way he used to when he was younger.

Is there anyone who would like to play Mr. Chin? Someone in the audience agrees to be Mr. Chin and comes up.

Mrs. Lawyer [Trainer 1]: Hi my name is Mrs. Lawyer, how can I help you today?

Mr. Chin: Hi Mrs. Lawyer, my kids are encouraging me to become a U.S. citizen and I need to take the naturalization exam. I can't remember things like I use to. I have been trying to study for the test for many months now but I have a hard time remembering the answers. I just can't do the history and government questions.

Mrs. Lawyer: How old are you Mr. Chin?

Mr. Chin: I am 75 years old.

Mrs. Lawyer: Have you heard of a disability waiver?

Mr. Chin: No, will that help me?

Mrs. Lawyer: Well, let me tell you about a disability waiver. A disability waiver will exempt you from having to answer the history or government questions on the test. Well Mr. Chin, it looks like you have a disability if you can't remember the answers to those questions. Besides, I know doctors who will sign anything for the right price. If you pay me \$5,000, you can fill out an application for citizenship and a disability waiver. You will have to do an interview where they will decide if you will be granted the waiver. They'll just ask you a few questions, nothing difficult, nothing you have to prepare for.

Mr. Chin: That's great.

[Trainer 2 prepares to have a discussion with the class and asks the class a few questions]

Trainer 2: Let's talk about some of the things that happened in the meeting with Mrs. Lawyer and Mr. Chin. Does anyone think that Mr. Chin has a disability? What is Mr. Chin's disability? Does anyone know the requirements for a disability? Did Mrs. Lawyer tell Mr. Chin what the requirements were?

Trainer 2: So now we are going to fast forward. Mr. Chin is now at his naturalization interview. I will play the role of the USCIS naturalization adjudicator.

USCIS Naturalization Adjudicator [Trainer 2]: Hello Mr. Chin, it says here that you have a disability, is that true?

Mr. Chin: Well, I have a hard time remembering the answers to the government and history questions on the test.

USCIS Naturalization Adjudicator: Your difficulty to answer questions is not a disability. I will make a finding that you have falsely claimed to have a disability. You have committed fraud. I am going to report this information and ensure that you will not be able to apply for citizenship because of your bad character for at least another 5 years.

Summary for Audience

Trainer 2: There are very specific requirements for establishing a disability for the naturalization exemption. Although most people do not meet the standard, some fraudulent immigration consultants or attorneys advise immigrants to apply for the exemption and charge them large sums of money. Be careful! Make sure you find a reputable immigration attorney, legal aid office or non-profit organization that can help you. Do not pay someone to state that you have a disability if you do not have one. Making a false claim of disability on a naturalization application is an act of bad moral character. To do so can result in you not being able to naturalize for at least 5 years.

DREAM Act Pre-Registration Summary (Presenter to read or paraphrase)

Time and People Required: 20 minutes, 1 trainer and 2 volunteers.

The DREAM Act is a proposed bill in Congress which will provide provisional green cards to young people, ages 15-35, who arrived as children in the United States without lawful immigration status. The Act, if passed, will allow individuals to obtain provisional permanent residency if they arrived in the United States at the age of 15 or under, have been here five years, have graduated from high school or obtained a GED, and have good moral character. In the version of the bill being debated as of 2009, the provisional green card will be good for six years and is revocable, triggering deportation, if the person does not complete two years of college or two years of military service.

While this proposed bill will be a great step forward in immigration reform if it becomes law, it is very important that students and parents realize that it is **not yet** the law! Some immigration consultants have been offering to pre-register undocumented young people for DREAM Act amnesty. It is important that students and parents understand that there is no amnesty yet, as the bill has not been passed by Congress or signed by the President. This means that anyone who tries to take payment for any immigration services associated with the DREAM Act is taking advantage of vulnerable students and parents.

DREAM Act Pre-Registration Skit

(Distribute copies to two audience volunteers to play Julio and his mother)

Trainer: In this skit, Julio is a student about to graduate from high school. Julio moved here with his parents when he was six years old. He is doing very well in school. He wants to register for college classes after he graduates, but is ineligible for federal work study and student loans. He is also worried about being able to use his college degree to work legally without a green card. He has come to talk to his mother about his concerns.

Julio: Hi Mama, I wanted to talk to you about what I'm going to do after I graduate from high school.

Mama: Julio, I am so proud of you and can't wait to see you graduate!

Julio: I'm excited to be graduating, but I am worried about how I am going to pay for college classes next year. Because I don't have a green card, I can't apply for student loans and work study. I heard that I might be able to qualify for a green card for the next six years and have the chance to go to college here.

Mama: That's great, but are you sure? I am scared that we might be deported if you tell someone that we don't have papers. Maybe we should ask an expert. There is a notario office down on Mission Street.

Julio: I am not sure that a notario here is a lawyer, Mama, but we can go see if they have any more information about how I can go to college.

[Scene change. Trainer explains to audience that he or she will play the notario- Sr/a. Consultante, sitting in his/her office. Julio and Mama come into the notario office and have a seat.]

Sr. Consultante [Trainer]: Hello, how are you today?

Mama: Very well, thank you. My name is Mrs. Rodriguez. My son Julio is about to graduate from high school. He is a very smart boy and wants to go to college, but I am concerned that we can't afford the tuition without loans and he's worried that he will not be able to work after getting a diploma.

Julio: Is there something I can do? I really want to go to college!

Sr. Consultante: Well, there is a new law about to be passed by Congress that is perfect for people in your situation. Have you heard of the DREAM Act?

Julio: No.

Sr. Consultante: All you have to do is sign up on this list and you are eligible.

Mama: Wow this is great. (Mama turns and looks at Julio.) Now we don't have to worry. So how do we sign-up, can we just leave Julio's name and information with you?

Sr. Consultante: Oh, it's so easy. You just pay me \$2,000 and then another \$500 later when I call you after the law is passed. I will make sure that you are among the first on the list to get your provisional green card.

Julio: This does sound perfect. How does it work?

Sr. Consultante: Under the DREAM Act you will get a provisional green card for six years. All you have to do is complete a two year college degree or two years of military service, and not get into trouble with the law, and you will be eligible for permanent residency after only six years.

Julio: So, I can just apply to school anywhere I want and I no longer have to worry, right?

Sr. Consultante: Nope, you just leave it to me and I will make sure everything is taken care of.

[Julio and his mother leave the notario office.]

Trainer: It is now one year later Julio and Mrs. Rodriguez have not heard any word from Sr. Consultante.

Julio: Mama what are we going to do about my tuition this semester? We could barely afford it for my first semester of college. I think I am going to have to drop out of school!

Mama: Well, Sr. Consultante said that he would tell us as soon as the bill passed. I am sure you're first on the list. All the money we paid had to be worth something.

Trainer: Thank you for participating. You both can return to your seats.

[Trainer prepares to have a discussion with the class and asks the class a few questions]

Trainer: Has anyone heard of the DREAM Act? Can anyone tell us what it is? The DREAM Act is not the law yet. It is just a proposed idea that Congress is talking about. No one can sign up for a program that the government has not authorized or put into place. Even if it does become the law, the government will implement a plan that will address the questions of anyone who is eligible for the program. There will likely be procedures that will be described that will likely require more on the part of the applicant than simply placing their name on a list.

Trainer: Remember, a notario does not have any special relationship with anyone in immigration. Anyone who promises you that they can get favors from CIS is probably

just trying to take advantage of you and to take your money. You can **never** sign up in advance for a law that has not been passed and signed by the president.

Conclusion

(Presenter to read or paraphrase)

Thank you very much for attending this program on immigration service provider fraud. We are now going to hand out a list of community organizations which offer help with immigration paper work. These organizations provide free legal services or low-cost legal services. We hope that you learned some new information and will pass on what you learned to your friends, family and community. Does anyone have any other questions?

Finally, we would like to hand out a short questionnaire which will ask you to share your opinions about this training and any stories you have heard about new kinds of immigration scams. We thank you in advance for sharing information that we will be able to use to improve our program and to share more information with immigrants around California.

Presenters: Please share your audience feedback with ILRC. Evaluation sheets and feedback can be sent to Dan Torres at dtorres@ilrc.org or by fax at (415) 255-9792.

Evaluation

Please rate the presentation you observed today on a scale of 1 (not very good) to 10 (excellent).

Was the presentation easy to understand? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Were the skits helpful? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Do you feel like you know your rights? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Will you share this information with others? Yes No

Was anything unclear?

Are there any other immigration scams or tricks you have heard about?

RESOURCE LIST

| East Bay | San Francisco |
|---|--|
| <p align="center">CENTRO LEGAL DE LA RAZA 1001 Fruitvale ave. 2nd Floor, Oakland, CA, 94601 (510) 437-1555 http://www.centrolegal.org</p> <p><i>The mission of Centro Legal de la Raza is to create a fair and just society by protecting and upholding the rights of low-income, Spanish-speaking, and immigrant communities. To this end, we provide free and low-cost legal services, counseling, and referrals.</i></p> | <p align="center">LA RAZA CENTRO LEGAL 474 Valencia St., Ste. 295 San Francisco, CA 94103 (415) 575-3500 Language: Spanish</p> <p><i>Will represent aliens in asylum cases. May charge nominal fee.</i></p> |
| <p align="center">INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF THE EAST BAY 449 15th Street, Ste. 303 Oakland, CA 94612 (510) 451-2846 http://www.iieb.org/</p> <p align="center"><i>Se habla Español. Will represent aliens in all types of immigration matters, except detention. Will require proof of income. Serves San Francisco Bay Area.</i></p> <p>Additional Contact Info: San Francisco: (415) 538-8100; Redwood City: (650) 780-7530</p> | <p align="center">ASIAN LAW CAUCUS 939 Market Street, Ste. 201 San Francisco, CA 94103 (415) 896-1701 Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm. Contact: Philip Van</p> <p align="center"><i>Serves the San Francisco Bay area. Free legal consultation to low income aliens in criminal removal matters. Will represent aliens in some asylum cases.</i></p> <p align="center"><i>Languages: Mandarin, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Tagalog.</i></p> |
| <p align="center">CATHLIC CHARITIES OF OAKLAND 433 Jefferson St Oakland, CA 94607 (510) 768-3100</p> <p><i>Our professional attorneys and staff offer legal counseling. We charge on a sliding fee scale, depending upon income and case type. All inquiries and consultations are confidential and cannot be obtained by the INS.</i></p> <p>Additional Catholic Charity Contact Information: San Jose (408) 944-0362</p> | <p align="center">CENTRAL AMERICAN RESOURCE CENTER (CARECEN) 1245 Alabama St. San Francisco, CA 94110 (415) 824-2330 Mon.-Fri. 9am-5 p.m.</p> <p align="center"><i>Charges nominal fee. Must meet (HUD) income guidelines for representation. Will represent Latin American aliens in asylum cases.</i></p> <p align="center"><i>Language: Spanish.</i></p> |

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Additional Resources

HELPLINK Immigration Hotline
(415) 808-4444

Help link will contact immigration attorneys to assist you, your loved ones or co-workers with immigration assistance. The hot line links services to clients with other agencies which may be able to help you, or other service provider with resources

COASTSIDE OPPORTUNITY CENTER
99 Avenue Alhambra Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-907

Coastside Hope provides support to clients and their families who live and work on the Coastside and are seeking permanent residency. These clients are here legally, either working on obtaining green cards or having been granted permanent legal resident status. Many of them want to become Americans, but navigating the system can be overwhelming.

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES OF EAST PALO ALTO
2117 University Ave # B
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 326-6440

The CLSEPA Immigration Program provides legal assistance to immigrants in and around East Palo Alto, where two-thirds of the population is Latino or Pacific Islander. Our two full-time immigration attorneys help local residents navigate the federal government's complicated immigration processes.