

**FAMILIES & IMMIGRATION: A PRACTICAL GUIDE**

**6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>Qualifying Family Relationships and Eligibility for Family Petitions</b>	
§ 1.1	Overview of the Family Immigration Process: A Two-Step Process.....	2
§ 1.2	The Immediate Relative Category & Definition of “Child” and “Spouse” .....	6
§ 1.3	“K” Visas for Fiancé(e)s, Spouses, and Children of U.S. Citizens .....	13
§ 1.4	Petitions Under the Preference System: Definition of Siblings and Sons and Daughters .....	16
§ 1.5	The Preference Categories.....	18
§ 1.6	Derivative Beneficiaries .....	24
§ 1.7	How the Preference System Works.....	27
§ 1.8	Using the State Department Visa Bulletin to Estimate When Your Client Can Immigrate .....	28
§ 1.9	Advising Your Client About When a Visa May Become Available.....	34
§ 1.10	The Child Status Protection Act (CSPA) .....	34
§ 1.11	“V” Visas for the Spouses and Children of Lawful Permanent Residents .....	42
§ 1.12	Protection for the Beneficiaries of a Family Petition When a Qualifying Relative Dies .....	46
§ 1.13	When Is a Visa Petition Terminated or No Longer Valid? .....	48
§ 1.14	Diversity Immigrants, Employment Visas, and Children in Juvenile Court Proceedings .....	53
Appendix 1-A	USCIS, <i>Policy Memorandum: Approval of Petitions and Applications after the Death of the Qualifying Relative under New Section 204(l) of the Immigration and Nationality Act</i> (Dec. 16, 2010) (partially superseded by USCIS Policy Manual)	
Appendix 1-B	Donald Neufeld, USCIS Acting Associate Director of Domestic Operations, <i>Memorandum: Revised Guidance for the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA)</i> (Apr. 30, 2008)	
Appendix 1-C	Joe Cuddihy, USCIS Director of International Affairs, <i>Interoffice Memorandum: Section 6 of the Child Status Protection Act</i> (Mar. 23, 2004) (partially superseded by USCIS Policy Manual)	
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>Submitting the Family Petition</b>	
§ 2.1	Completing Government Forms.....	86
§ 2.2	Completing the Family Visa Petition, Form I-130.....	88
§ 2.3	The I-130A for Spousal Petitions.....	96
§ 2.4	Documenting the Visa Petition.....	96
§ 2.5	What Documents Are Needed to Prove Family Relationship? .....	97

§ 2.6	Obtaining Documents in the United States to Show Family Relationship .....	99
§ 2.7	Obtaining Documents from Other Countries .....	99
§ 2.8	Making Proper Copies of Documents .....	100
§ 2.9	Making Certified Translations of Documents .....	101
§ 2.10	Documenting the Immigration Status of the Petitioner .....	101
§ 2.11	Filing the I-130 Packet .....	102
§ 2.12	USCIS Challenges to a Marriage .....	104
§ 2.13	The Legal Standard for a Marriage .....	105
§ 2.14	Documentation to Show That a Marriage Is Bona Fide .....	107
§ 2.15	What Will Happen at the Marriage Fraud Interview? .....	107
§ 2.16	Preparing Your Client: Self-Defense Techniques for USCIS Interviews.....	108
§ 2.17	Special Rules That Affect Spousal Visa Petitions.....	110
§ 2.18	Appealing a Denial by USCIS of an I-130 Petition .....	113
Appendix 2-A	Sample Completed I-130	
Appendix 2-B	Form I-94	
Appendix 2-C	ILRC, <i>A Step-by-Step Guide to Completing FOIA Requests with DHS</i> (Sept. 2020)	
Appendix 2-D	Sample Completed I-130A	
Appendix 2-E	USCIS Policy Memorandum: Issuance of Certain RFEs and NOIDs; Revisions to <i>Adjudicator’s Field Manual</i> (AFM) Chapter 10.5(a), Chapter 10.5(b) (July 13, 2018)	
Appendix 2-F	Practice Marriage Fraud Interview Questions	
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>Eligibility for Adjustment of Status to Permanent Residence</b>	
§ 3.1	What Is Adjustment of Status? .....	167
§ 3.2	Who Is Eligible for Adjustment of Status Based on a Family Petition? .....	168
§ 3.3	Red Flags: Identifying Potential Risks to Adjustment .....	169
§ 3.4	245(a): Adjustment for Those Who Were Inspected & Admitted or Paroled and Meet Other Requirements.....	171
§ 3.5	Section 245(i): Adjustment for Those Who Entered without Inspection or Do Not Qualify for § 245(a) Adjustment .....	176
§ 3.6	The Unlawful Presence Bars .....	183
Appendix 3-A	Comparison of § 245(a) and § 245(i) Adjustment Provisions	
Appendix 3-B	Section 245(i) Memorandum Dated March 9, 2005	
Appendix 3-C	Section 245(i) Memorandum Dated April 14, 1999	

<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Submitting the Application for Adjustment of Status</b>	
§ 4.1	When Can You File for Adjustment? .....	201
§ 4.2	Contents of the Adjustment Packet .....	202
§ 4.3	The Adjustment Application, Form I-485 .....	209
§ 4.4	The Affidavit of Support, Form I-864 .....	210
§ 4.5	Submitting the Adjustment Application.....	226
§ 4.6	The Effect of Leaving the Country.....	228
§ 4.7	What Will Happen at the Adjustment Interview? .....	228
§ 4.8	The Decision: Approvals and Denials.....	232
Appendix 4-A	Sample Completed I-485	
Appendix 4-B	USCIS, Form I-864P: 2021 HHS Poverty Guidelines for Affidavit of Support	
Appendix 4-C	Sample Adjustment of Status Cover Letters (One-Step Marriage-Based Adjustment; 245(i) One-Step Marriage-Based Adjustment; One-Step Adjustment for IR Parent of USC)	
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>Conditional Permanent Residence</b>	
§ 5.1	Marriage-Based Cases and Conditional Residence.....	267
§ 5.2	What Is Conditional Permanent Residence? .....	268
§ 5.3	Who Is a Conditional Permanent Resident?.....	269
§ 5.4	Removal of Conditional Residency if the Marriage Still Exists After Two Years: The I-751 “Joint Petition”.....	270
§ 5.5	Completing the I-751 Joint Petition .....	273
§ 5.6	Application Procedure: Filing, Extension of Status, and Interview .....	274
§ 5.7	Denials and Appeals.....	276
§ 5.8	Termination of Conditional Residence by USCIS During the “Testing Period” .....	277
§ 5.9	Waivers of the I-751 Joint Filing Requirement.....	278
§ 5.10	When to File an I-751 Waiver .....	279
§ 5.11	How to File an I-751 Waiver.....	280
§ 5.12	The “Good Faith” Waiver .....	281
§ 5.13	How to Show Extreme Hardship.....	281
§ 5.14	The Battery or Extreme Cruelty Waiver .....	283
§ 5.15	Additional Help for Battered Spouses and Children .....	284
§ 5.16	Filing a Waiver if the U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident Spouse Has Died .....	284
§ 5.17	Dependent Sons and Daughters.....	285
§ 5.18	Failing Marriages and Waivers .....	286
Appendix 5-A	Sample Letters to Clients Regarding Conditional Residence	
Appendix 5-B	USCIS, Policy Memorandum: Revised Guidance Concerning Adjudication of Certain I-751 Petitions (Dec. 23, 2012)	
Appendix 5-C	Donald Neufeld, USCIS Acting Associate Director, Memorandum: I-751 Filed Prior to Termination of Marriage (Apr. 3, 2009)	

<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Applying for Permanent Residence Through Consular Processing</b>	
§ 6.1	Introduction to Consular Processing .....	301
§ 6.2	How Consular Processing Responsibilities Are Divided Among Agencies .....	302
§ 6.3	Finding the Rules: The Statute, Regulations, Foreign Affairs Manual, and NVC Instructions .....	305
§ 6.4	Overview of Consular Processing Steps and Utilizing the Visa Bulletin .....	307
§ 6.5	Step I: Establishing Email Correspondence and a Point of Contact.....	312
§ 6.6	Step II: Paying the Fees.....	313
§ 6.7	Step III: Submitting the Online Application for an Immigrant Visa.....	314
§ 6.8	Step IV: Submitting the Affidavit of Support with Financial Documentation and the Supporting Civil Documents.....	316
§ 6.9	Step V: Preparing for the Consular Interview .....	323
§ 6.10	Step VI: The Consular Interview.....	326
§ 6.11	The Alien Registration Card or Permanent Resident Card ("Green Card").....	334
Appendix 6-A	Screenshot of the DOS NVC Homepage	
Appendix 6-B	Sample NVC Notification Letter Warning of Impending Termination Proceedings with Instructions	
Appendix 6-C	Sample NVC Notice of Immigrant Visa Case Creation	
Appendix 6-D	Sample Electronic Form DS-260 Immigration Visa Application	
Appendix 6-E	Immigration Visa Application (DS-260) Prep Questions for the Client in English	
Appendix 6-F	Immigration Visa Application (DS-260) Prep Questions for the Client in Spanish	
Appendix 6-G	Two Sample NVC Letters Scheduling Immigrant Visa Interview at Different U.S. Consulates with Instructions Regarding Interview and Documents	
Appendix 6-H	U.S. Consulate, Ciudad Juarez Visa Registration, ASC Appointment and Courier Selection Site with Medical Examination and Interview Guidelines in English and Spanish	
Appendix 6-I	Sample Immigrant Visa Stamped in Passport	
<b>Chapter 7</b>	<b>Non-Crimes Grounds of Inadmissibility</b>	
§ 7.1	Overview of Admissibility, Deportability, Admission, and Removal .....	401
§ 7.2	Health-Related Grounds: Communicable Diseases, Required Vaccinations, Dangerous Disorders, and Addiction and Abuse.....	408
§ 7.3	Alien Smuggling: Grounds of Inadmissibility and Deportability .....	415
§ 7.4	Fraud and Misrepresentation .....	420
§ 7.5	Document Fraud: Ground of Inadmissibility and Deportability .....	424
§ 7.6	Insufficient Documentation.....	425

§ 7.7	False Claim to U.S. Citizenship .....	426
§ 7.8	Likely to Become a Public Charge.....	433
§ 7.9	Terrorists, Draft Dodgers, Unlawful Voters, Stowaways, Polygamists .....	437
§ 7.10	Entry, Admission, and Effective Dates .....	442
§ 7.11	Unlawfully Present in the United States Without Being Admitted or Paroled .....	443
§ 7.12	Three- and Ten-Year Bars for Those Unlawfully Present Who Depart and Then Apply for Admission and the Family Hardship Waiver.....	445
§ 7.13	“Permanent Bar” to Persons Who Were Unlawfully Present for More than One Year or Were Ordered Removed and Who Enter or Attempt to Enter Without Being Admitted .....	452
§ 7.14	Failure to Attend Removal Proceedings.....	457
§ 7.15	Past Removal or Deportation/Exclusion .....	459
§ 7.16	Reinstatement .....	460
Appendix 7-A	<i>USCIS, Interoffice Memorandum: Consolidation of Guidance Concerning Unlawful Presence for Purposes of Sections 212(a)(9)(B)(i) and 212(a)(9)(C)(i)(I) of the Act: Revision to and Re-designation of Adjudicator’s Field Manual (AFM) Chapter 30.1(d) as Chapter 40.9 (AFM Update AD 08-03 (May 6, 2009))</i>	
<b>Chapter 8</b>	<b>Crimes-Related Grounds of Inadmissibility</b>	
§ 8.1	Clients with Criminal Records .....	515
§ 8.2	What Is a Criminal Conviction?.....	517
§ 8.3	What Evidence Can DHS Submit to Show a Conviction? .....	518
§ 8.4	What Is a Sentence for Immigration Purposes? .....	519
§ 8.5	How to Analyze a Past Conviction: The Categorical Approach .....	520
§ 8.6	Overview of Immigration Consequences of Crimes .....	523
§ 8.7	Inadmissibility Based on Drug Offenses.....	524
§ 8.8	Crimes Involving Moral Turpitude .....	527
§ 8.9	The Crime Involving Moral Turpitude Petty Offense and Youth Exceptions .....	531
§ 8.10	Other Grounds: Prostitution, Two Convictions with Five-Year Sentence Imposed, Alien Trafficking, Money Laundering, High- Speed Flight from Immigration.....	532
§ 8.11	Aggravated Felonies.....	534
§ 8.12	Clearing Up a Criminal Record.....	537
Appendix 8-A	Instructions for Obtaining Criminal Record Checks and Requests for Criminal Records	
Appendix 8-B	<i>ILRC, Cannabis &amp; Immigration (Feb. 2021)</i>	

<b>Chapter 9</b>	<b>Waivers of Inadmissibility</b>	
§ 9.1	Waivers of Grounds of Inadmissibility .....	555
§ 9.2	What Is a Waiver? .....	556
§ 9.3	What Is Discretion? .....	556
§ 9.4	Guiding Principles .....	557
§ 9.5	Waiver of Inadmissibility for Visa Fraud.....	558
§ 9.6	Invalid Documents and Document Fraud Waiver of Inadmissibility.....	560
§ 9.7	Waiver of Inadmissibility/Exemption for Alien Smuggling .....	563
§ 9.8	Waivers for Communicable Disease, Lack of Vaccinations, or Dangerous Mental Disorders Under INA § 212(g) .....	565
§ 9.9	Waivers for Unlawful Presence, Past Removal, and Other Related Immigration Offenses.....	571
§ 9.10	Waiver for Certain Crimes Under INA § 212(h).....	584
§ 9.11	Procedure for Applying for a Waiver.....	586
§ 9.12	How Do You Establish Extreme Hardship?.....	587
Appendix 9-A	Sample Waiver Application Including Cover Letter, Declaration and List of Supporting Documents in Support of Waiver of Unlawful Presence Bar	
Appendix 9-B	Sample Provisional Unlawful Presence Waiver Application	
Appendix 9-C	CDC Vaccination Chart for Civil Surgeons and Panel Physicians	
<b>Chapter 10</b>	<b>Special Issues: The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)</b>	
§ 10.1	Overview of Self-Petitioning Under the Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”).....	757
§ 10.2	Requirements for a VAWA Self-Petition of an Abused Spouse.....	759
§ 10.3	Requirements for a VAWA Self-Petition for an Abused Child .....	769
§ 10.4	Requirements for a VAWA Self-Petition for an Abused Parent.....	773
§ 10.5	Procedures for Self-Petitioning Under VAWA.....	775
Appendix 10-A	Michael L. Aytes, USCIS Associate Director of Domestic Operations, <i>Memorandum: Adjustment of status for VAWA self-petitioner who is present without inspection: Revision of Adjudicator’s Field Manual (AFM) Chapter 23.5 (Apr. 11, 2008), reprinted in 85 Interpreter Releases 1272 (Apr. 21, 2008)</i>	