



NEWS RELEASE

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July 14, 2000

Jurisdiction Over Asylum Applications in Hawaii and Guam Shifts From San Francisco Asylum Office to Los Angeles

WASHINGTON – Effective July 24, 2000, Asylum Office jurisdiction over the State of Hawaii and the Territory of Guam will transfer from the San Francisco Asylum Office to the Los Angeles Asylum Office, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has announced.

In addition, INS is changing the location where asylum applicants should mail their applications. Currently, individuals residing in Hawaii and Guam must submit the Form I-589, Application for Asylum and Withholding of Removal, to the Nebraska Service Center. After the jurisdiction change becomes effective, individuals residing in Hawaii and Guam must submit the Form I-589 to the California Service Center. The address of the California Service Center is:

USINS California Service Center
P.O. Box 10599
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0589

The Nebraska Service Center will continue to accept asylum applications filed by applicants residing in Hawaii and the Guam for 30 days after July 24, 2000. Applications received at the Nebraska Service Center 31 days after July 24, 2000 will be rejected and returned to the senders due to the tight time constraints governing the adjudication of asylum applications.

Rejected applications are not considered filed for work authorization purposes or for interview scheduling until they are properly resubmitted to the California Service Center. Applicants are encouraged to save any rejection letters from the Service Center and to return them with the resubmitted applications in the event that the one-year filing deadline for asylum applications is at issue.