



USCIS CHILD CITIZENSHIP ACT PROGRAM

Child Citizenship Act Information

The Child Citizenship Act (CCA, P.L. 106-395) became effective on February 27, 2001. The law amended Section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and among other things, provided for the automatic citizenship for certain children upon entry to the U.S. or upon adjustment of status. At the time of implementation, the USCIS issued policy memoranda and published an interim regulation in the Federal Register. The USCIS has begun reengineering its processing in order to streamline the production of Certificates of Citizenship for certain adopted children.

USCIS CCA Program Overview

The USCIS CCA Program implementation is occurring in two phases—interim and long term—in order to meet all program goals. The Buffalo District Office is the location for the interim streamlining project. Buffalo personnel began in November 2003 by eliminating a majority of the N-643 backlog and will continue by processing newly entering IR-3 visa holders beginning January 1, 2004. The interim solution is anticipated to continue for one to four years.

The USCIS has considered a long-term solution to address new IR-3 entrants, but will wait to gain benefits from the interim implementation before determining the final solution.

Once the new IR-3 entrant program is established, the USCIS will expand the program to address other Immediate Relative visa cases so that additional children benefit from the CCA changes. Key elements to be addressed include development of a streamlined procedure for IR-3 children who have already been admitted to the U.S., but have not yet filed Form N-600 for evidence of citizenship and families who fall within other visa categories (e.g., IR-4 and IR-7).

New Entrant Program

The new IR-3 entrant program, which will be effective January 1, 2004, focuses on newly entering orphans with full and final adoptions abroad (IR-3) who qualify for automatic citizenship under INA Section 320. Under the new program, these children automatically receive Certificates of Citizenship instead of Permanent Resident Cards (PRC). The goal of the new IR-3 entrant program goal is to provide the Certificates to families within 45 days of entry into the U.S.

The IR-3 new entrant program streamlines the process by instituting a central location for adjudication of new IR-3 entrant IV packets. As with the backlog elimination effort, this program will be centrally located at the Buffalo District Office with assistance from the California and Texas Service Centers and Ports of Entry.

N-643 Backlog Elimination Program

Beginning in November 2003, USCIS began eliminating the N-643 backlog through a centralized effort at the Buffalo District Office. More than 550 cases were completed through the effort, which eliminates a vast majority of the backlog that existed.

CCA Program Information Resources

For general information about the CCA and USCIS program please visit uscis.gov. Specific questions about the program should be forwarded Rosalina Lacot in the USCIS Office of Field Operations.

USCIS customers with questions about the CCA and USCIS programs should visit uscis.gov or contact the National Customer Service Center (NCSC) at 1-800-375-5283.

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