



News Release

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USCIS LAUNCHES INFOPASS IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

Online Appointment System Eliminates Need to Wait in Line for Immigration Information

(BUFFALO, NY) – Calling InfoPass a customer service milestone, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today formally opened the Internet-based appointment system to residents of upstate New York. This launch is part of a national effort to implement InfoPass in all 33 USCIS Districts by early September 2004. With InfoPass, the public can go online to schedule a date and time to meet with an immigration information officer, avoiding the need to wait in line. InfoPass first debuted in Miami last year and has eliminated the lines in that office completely.

Traditionally, customers would begin lining up outside USCIS District Offices at dawn to speak to an Immigration Information Officer. USCIS Director Eduardo Aguirre predicts that InfoPass will ultimately mean the end of the need to wait in line all together.

“This is another important stride for USCIS in our commitment to offer customers world class service,” Director Aguirre said. “We are using updated technology to improve the experience for our customers by enabling them to schedule an appointment on their own time.”

InfoPass is now offered in 12 languages including: Arabic, Chinese, Creole, English, French, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Russian, and Vietnamese. USCIS plans to add additional languages in the future.

“Now that we have InfoPass, people who visit our offices in Buffalo and Albany can be assured they’ll get the assistance they need at a time that is convenient for them,” said M. Frances Holmes, Director of the USCIS Buffalo District Office. “InfoPass is a user-friendly tool that allows customers to take control of their own schedules.”

USCIS Customer Service Options Online

InfoPass is one of several USCIS innovations designed to make immigration services more convenient and accessible for the general public. USCIS also offers E-Filing that allows customers to go online to file for an immigration benefit. E-Filing currently supports eight of the more frequently used forms that

account for more than 50% of applications filed each year. By the end of 2006, E-Filing will support twelve forms that account for more than 90% of the applications filed yearly.

Customers may also go online to check the status of their pending application, and build a portfolio of up to 100 cases to check. USCIS also offers customers e-mailed updates when the status of their case changes.

Customers may access all USCIS Internet-based services on www.uscis.gov.

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On March 1, 2003, U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services became one of three legacy INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.