



Press Release

November 30, 2005

FOLLOW-UP MESSAGE: USCIS ANNOUNCES NEW ADDRESS CHANGE PROCEDURES FOR ABC CLASS MEMBERS

Washington, D.C. – On November 30, 2005, USCIS officially closed the ABC Project Post Office Box. On August 5, 2005, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) notified class members of American Baptist Churches v. Thornburgh (ABC) through publication of a notice in the Federal Register that the ABC Project Post Office box in Washington, D.C will close. The change was to take effect on October 5, 2005, sixty days after publication in the Federal Register. With the ABC Project Post Office Box is closed, USCIS will no longer accept change of address forms sent to the ABC Project Post Office box address.

Class members must notify USCIS of any change of address by submitting Form AR-11 (Alien's Change of Address Card) to the address listed on the Form within 10 days after an address change, which is the standard procedure for all USCIS change-of-address notifications. If a class member has an application pending with a USCIS Asylum Office, the class member should also notify that office of the address change submitting a copy of completed Form AR-11 or a signed and dated letter containing the address change.

The ABC Project Post Office box was established in Washington, D.C. more than ten years ago to provide a central location for the approximately 240,000 ABC class members to submit change of address forms. This centralized location simplified the process for those ABC class members who were eligible to seek benefits of the settlement agreement but had not yet applied for asylum or any other benefit with the former INS. However, the deadline for submitting applications for asylum in order to retain benefits of the settlement agreement has long passed, and the specialized post office box is no longer necessary.

Many ABC class members currently have applications pending with USCIS under the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA). As a result, many of these class members are already required to follow standard procedures for submitting change of address notifications to USCIS.

Also, USCIS will discontinue use of Form I-855, ABC Change of Address Form, with the effective closing of the ABC Project Post Office Box.

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