

NEW IMMIGRATION LAW COULD HELP MANY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Terry Spearman, Legal Assistance

President Obama has directed the United States Department of Homeland Security to institute a policy which will allow certain illegal immigrants in the U.S. the authority to work legally, obtain social security cards & driver's license. Criteria that has been established thus far is that you must have been brought to the United States as young children, do not present a risk to national security or public safety, and meet several key criteria will be considered for relief from removal from the country or from entering into removal proceedings. Those who demonstrate that they meet the criteria will be eligible to receive deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and will be eligible to apply for work authorization. Those eligible 1) Must have come to the United States under the age of 16; 2) Must have continuously resided in the United States 5 years prior to June 15, 2012 and present in the United States on that same date; 3) Currently in school, graduated, obtained a GED, or honorably discharged from the military; 3) Have no felony conviction, significant misdemeanor offense, multiple misdemeanor offenses, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety; and 4) You are not above the age of thirty.

Although this new guidance is in effect, the Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security has given the United States Citizenship & Immigration Service sixty (60) days to establish a procedure to apply for this relief. At this time, there is no procedure in place and any applications submitted will be returned potentially without reimbursement of payments made. If you have any questions please feel free to make an appointment with the XVIII Airborne Corps Legal Assistance Office, located on the 1st floor of the Soldier Support Center, or call 910-396-6113/0396 for an appointment.