



USCIS Telephone Scam Targets Applicants and Petitioners

In recent weeks there have been increased instances of a new telephone scam targeting USCIS applicants and petitioner. Scammers are calling applicants and petitioners using a technique called “caller ID spoofing” to display an inaccurate phone number on the recipient’s caller ID system. The scammer poses as a USCIS official and may request personal information or payment to correct alleged issues in the recipient’s immigration records.

Please be advised that USCIS never asks for any form of payment or personal information over the phone. If you or anyone you know have been a victim of this telephone scam, report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission at <https://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov/>.

F2A Visas Retrogress October 1st to September 8, 2013

For the months of August and September 2013, the F2A category was current for nationals all over the world. The F2A category is for spouses and children (under 21 years of age) of U.S. Permanent Residents.

China EB-2 moved from August 8, 2008 to September 15, 2008.

All other categories seem to be stuck.

DV Lottery starts Oct. 1, 2013 to November 2, 2013

The Diversity Visa Lottery which grants 50,000 Permanent Resident Visas to citizens of countries with historically low immigration rates to the U.S. is open from Oct. 2, 2013 to November 2, 2013. See instructions at www.state.gov or contact our firm.

DACA Applications Have Stalled in Recent Months

Since the program began on Aug. 15, 2012, USCIS has approved more than 365,000 DACA applications. Yet many dreamers who filed early and paid \$465 in fees still await DACA.

Passport Office to Temporarily Close

The Houston Passport Agency at the Mickey Leland Federal Building is closed for renovations starting September 23, 2013. The agency is anticipated to re-open in early 2014.

If you are interested in learning more about these new developments, please contact our firm at (713) 980-9939 or psb@barnett-lawgroup.com.