



Important Notice Immigrant Visa Recipients

Your immigrant visa consists of a visa foil in your passport, and a sealed envelope containing your personal documents. Please check the visa foil in your passport for the expiration date of the visa. Under no circumstances should you tamper with it in any way, open the sealed envelope or, remove the attached document ("Immigrant Data Summary"). Should you do so, **the visa becomes automatically invalid**, and must be reissued. In addition, you will be required to pay the visa fees again and possibly also have to obtain updated documents.

Your passport with the visa foil and the sealed envelope are to be presented together to the immigration authorities at the port-of-entry in the United States. You are not required to present your x-ray film, but it should be carried with you in your checked luggage.

If, for any reason, you are unable to use your immigrant visa, please return your passport and the sealed envelope to this office indicating whether or not you still wish to pursue your immigration to the United States. Failure to return the unused visa may result in unnecessary delay in the issuance of a new visa to you, or to some other qualified applicant, as an immigrant visa once issued, cannot be extended beyond its current validity.

If you do not use the visa for travel to the U.S. within the six months validity period, you must obtain a new visa and pay the visa issuance fee again, in order to travel to the United States. The visa fees you have paid are not refundable.

The Alien Registration Receipt Card

After the immigration officer accepts your visa at the port-of-entry in the United States, the officer will process your application for an Alien Registration Receipt Card (Form I-551). This card, often referred to as the "green card", will be issued and sent to you by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) some time after your admission in to the United States. The Alien Registration Receipt Card is a confirmation that you have entered the country as a legal resident. The immigration officer will provide you with a temporary evidence of lawful admission (a stamp in your passport) to serve until the card arrives.

The Department of Homeland Security will mail the Alien Registration Receipt Card to you at the address of final destination you provide at the time of your admission to the U.S. as an immigrant. The Alien Registration Receipt Card is an important document and you should ensure that you have it with you at all times, especially, when departing the United States on any future trips. If you depart the U.S. please note that your Alien Registration Receipt Card will lose its validity if you remain outside the United States for more than 364 days; your "green card" and your status will expire automatically.

If you have any questions concerning the issuance of the Alien Registration Receipt Card, or if you do not receive it within a reasonable period of time, you should contact the office of the Department of Homeland Security having jurisdiction over your place of residence in the United States.