

## How to accelerate your petition with USCIS?

There are various ways to accelerate a petition with USCIS. The most obvious way is for a lawful permanent resident petitioning a spouse or minor child to file his application for naturalization after five years in permanent resident status and become a U.S. citizen. Once naturalized, the beneficiary's preference category will change to Immediate Relative. This category is given special priority and the beneficiary is not required to wait for a visa number to become available for them to immigrate to the U.S. If the beneficiary is in the U.S. they can file for adjustment of status with USCIS if she entered with inspection or filed a petition prior to April 30, 2001.

Another way to accelerate a petition for a minor is by alerting the National Visa Center (NVC) if the minor is turning 21 years of age. For an unmarried child of a permanent resident, turning 21 years of age may delay the process of becoming a permanent resident or obtaining an immigrant visa. The child would no longer qualify as an "Unmarried Child of a Lawful Permanent Resident." Instead, upon reaching 21 his category would convert to "Unmarried Son or Daughter of a Lawful Permanent Resident." This change would result in a significant delay in the child's consular processing. Hence, if the petitioner's child is turning 21, the petitioner should contact the NVC immediately. If visas are available in the child's visa category before his birthday, the NVC may be able to expedite the child's case so that the child can immigrate to the U.S. If the petitioner fails to notify the NVC that his child will soon turn 21, the child will unfortunately have to wait under the longer. Moreover, for the beneficiary spouse whose child is a derivative of her petitioner, once the child turns 21 and NVC is not notified in advance, that child becomes ineligible to immigrate with the parent and a separate petition will need to be filed for that child giving rise to a significant delay before the child becomes eligible for a visa.

In certain cases, the Child Status Protection Act may allow you to retain the classification of "child" even if you have reached age 21. This act is very difficult to understand and it is important that the petitioner seek the legal advice of a seasoned immigration attorney to determine whether it applied to his or her case.

Finally, the surest way to expedite your immigration case is to contact the law office of Lloyd E. Bennett, Esq. at 4713 Bergenline Avenue, Union City, New Jersey for a consultation. Never use the services of a "notario!" They are not licensed to practice law in the State of New Jersey.