

Are You Prepared for Administrative Relief?

In 2014, President Obama announced his plan for administrative relief, or executive action, which will provide millions of unauthorized individuals the opportunity to apply for immigration relief. The announcement was a historic moment for our country and it is time to get prepared. NYLAG will be conducting open information sessions about administrative relief at upcoming community clinics. Visit www.nylag.org/relief for more information. **Speak to a licensed attorney or organization accredited to practice immigration law before you send your application or pay any fees.**



COLLECT YOUR DOCUMENTS

No one knows exactly what information or documents administrative relief will require. However, based on NYLAG's experience, the following types of documents will most likely be required:

1. Documents Confirming Employment & Residency History (especially 01/01/2010 - present)

Many immigration applications require that you list where you have lived and worked for the past five years. The following documents can help you prove your physical presence in the United States:

- Pay Stubs
- School Transcripts
- Medical Records
- Receipts
- Bank Statements
- Tax Returns/W-2 Forms
- Passport Entry Stamps/ I-94 Arrival Cards
- Apartment Leases
- Mortgage Documents
- Vehicle Registration/ Insurance/Title
- Utility Bills
- Marriage Certificates/ Divorce Decrees
- Children's Birth Certificates (if you are listed as parent).

2. Documents Confirming Eligibility for Relief

To qualify for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or **DACA**, you must have entered the US before your 16th birthday and fulfill certain educational requirements.

- Proof of presence in US before your 16th birthday
- High school diploma, transcript or school records
- GED certificate or proof of enrollment in GED class
- Military records, if applicable

To qualify for Deferred Action for Parents of U.S. Citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents or **DAPA**, you must have a child born on or before **11/20/2014** who is a U.S. citizen or Legal Permanent Resident.

- Birth certificate of US-born child
- Birth certificate of foreign-born child (and certified English translation)
- Copy of child's US passport, certificate of citizenship or Legal Permanent Resident Card ("Green Card")
- Adoption documents, if applicable

Please note that there is no application for DAPA at this time. We expect the details to be released in May 2015. DO NOT send application or pay anyone to send DAPA applications on your behalf at this time.

3. Documents Demonstrating Your Good Moral Character

- Tax Returns
- Diplomas/Certificates of Completion
- Evidence of Volunteer Service or Religious Institution Attendance
- Awards/Certificates of Appreciation
- Evidence of Good Parenting, such as reports of children's progress in school.

4. Identity Documents

- Passport(s) and/or Visa(s)
- Consular I.D. card
- Birth Certificate (and certified English translation)

CONTINUED ON REVERSE...

What are DACA and DAPA?

If you apply for and are granted DACA or DAPA you will:

- Be able to legally work in the U.S.
- Be protected from deportation for 3 years
- Be able to get a social security number and (in most states) a driver's license
- Be eligible for certain state benefits.

Important: DACA and DAPA will **NOT** help you become a U.S. citizen or get a green card. For more information, speak to a licensed attorney or organization accredited to practice immigration law.



STAY OUT OF TROUBLE

If you are arrested make sure your criminal attorney knows the immigration consequences of a conviction. Certain crimes, including certain misdemeanors, can bar you permanently from some forms of immigration relief. Get Certificates of Disposition for any arrest. An attorney can review these documents to determine if you are eligible for relief.

PAY YOUR TAXES CORRECTLY

Be aware that many tax preparers' only objective is securing the largest refund possible. If you are unsure about the tax assistance you are receiving, contact the IRS, or visit their website, for a list of free volunteer tax preparers.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Educate yourself on what your rights are during an encounter with an immigration officer or other law enforcement.

- You have the right to get a copy of your file from your legal representative and you should always get a receipt and sign a formal contract or retainer from whoever is helping you (do not sign blank forms).
- You can always check the status of your immigration case at www.egov.uscis.gov/casestatus.
- Call (718) 923 6300 to file a complaint against an attorney in Brooklyn, Staten Island, or Queens, and (212) 401 0800 to file a complaint against an attorney in Manhattan or the Bronx.

SAVE MONEY

Immigration application fees can cost several hundred dollars, so it is important to start saving money now.

BEWARE OF FRAUD

In the United States, not all notaries or "notarios" are attorneys. Make sure you only take legal advice from a licensed attorney or an organization accredited to practice immigration law.

INFORM YOURSELF ABOUT FREE LEGAL SERVICES

New York Legal Assistance Group is holding a series of clinics where you can receive a free case consultation. For more information and a calendar of events, visit www.nylag.org/relief, call (212) 613-6597 or email ipuintake@nylag.org.