



# Don't Be a Victim of Immigration Fraud

[www.uscis.gov/  
immigrationpractice](http://www.uscis.gov/immigrationpractice)



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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You may prepare and file your application or petition with USCIS yourself, or, you may choose to have help from someone else. This pamphlet contains important information that can assist you in making the right decision when you seek help with your immigration application or petition.

If you need advice to help you decide what immigration application or petition to file with USCIS, contact an attorney or an accredited representative of a recognized organization.

Before you decide to work with an attorney or an accredited representative on your immigration application or petition, read the important information on the next page on how to verify whether they can legally represent you before USCIS. Attorneys and accredited representatives must complete Form G-28 and file it with your application or petition with USCIS. USCIS will communicate with them on your case.

If you only need help filling in the blanks on your application or petition or translating documents that you will give to USCIS, any individual may as-

sist you. This individual **MUST** complete and sign the application or petition stating that they assisted in preparing the application or petition at your request. These individuals do **NOT** file a Form G-28 with USCIS, and USCIS will **NOT** communicate with them about your case.

Before you decide to work with someone on your immigration application or petition, read the important information on the back page on how to avoid being the victim of immigration practice fraud.

### **How to verify if an attorney or accredited representative is eligible to legally represent you before USCIS:**

1. An attorney must be in good standing with a U.S. state bar association (or U.S. possession, territory, Commonwealth, or the District of Columbia) and may not be under any court order restricting their practice of law. The best way to protect yourself is to ask the attorney to show you their current attorney license document. Write down the information and contact the state bar admission office to verify the accuracy of the information.
2. An accredited representative must work for an organization that has permission from the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to provide legal advice on immigration matters. The organization will have an order from the BIA that gives the accredited representative permission to assist individuals with their immigration applications and petitions. The best way to protect yourself is to ask the accredited representative to show you the BIA order. Write down the information and contact the BIA to verify the accuracy of the information.

#### **For Help Contact:**

USCIS: 1-800-375-5283 (TTY 1-800-767-1833)  
or visit: [www.uscis.gov/immigrationpractice](http://www.uscis.gov/immigrationpractice)

## How to Protect Yourself

1. **DO NOT** sign blank applications, petitions, or other papers.
2. **DO NOT** sign documents that you do not understand.
3. **DO NOT** sign documents that contain false statements or inaccurate information.
4. **DO NOT** make payments to a representative without getting a receipt.
5. **DO** obtain copies of all documents prepared or submitted for you.
6. **DO** verify an attorney's or accredited representative's eligibility to represent you.
7. **DO** report any representative's unlawful activity to USCIS, State Bar Associations and/or State Offices of Attorneys General.

For more information on how to avoid becoming a victim of immigration fraud and information on reporting unlawful practices visit: [www.uscis.gov/immigrationpractice](http://www.uscis.gov/immigrationpractice)

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