



## Avoiding Dishonest Immigration Services Providers

*The Office of the Attorney General will NOT ask about your immigration status*

### **What to Watch Out For:**

Avoid Immigration Services Providers that do any of the following:

- Promise to get you green cards, work visas, or other benefits, even if you are not eligible.
- Tell you they have someone on the “inside” or have connections to USCIS (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) or INS (Immigration Naturalization Service).
- Use terms in their advertisements, stationery, or business cards implying that they are attorneys (such as “notario” or “poder notario”).
- Charge high fees.
- Make excuses for not filing documents.
- Cancel interviews or tell you government interviews have been cancelled.

### **What An IMMIGRATION SERVICES PROVIDER Can Do:**

- Give you materials, law books and forms, so that you can prepare legal documents yourself.
- Give you a list of forms and legal documents.
- Type or fill out forms for you IF you tell the provider what to write.
- File forms in court for you IF you tell the provider what to file.
- Serve legal papers on other parties.

### **What An IMMIGRATION SERVICES PROVIDER Cannot Do:**

- Tell you what forms you need for your case.
- Fill out forms for you if you do not tell the provider what to write.
- Tell you for what kind of immigration category (such as asylum or labor certification) you should apply or give you any other legal advice.

## **Steps You Can Take to Protect Yourself from Dishonest Immigration Services Providers:**

- Ask about the provider's educational background, work experience and whether they are registered with the Illinois Attorney General's Office. Immigration Services Providers must be registered with the Office of the Attorney General.
- Check for signs posted on the premises. Illinois law requires Immigration Services Providers to post signs in the place of business informing consumers they are neither licensed attorneys nor accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals. Signs informing consumers of their three-day right to cancel and a fee schedule must also be posted.
- Discuss price. If the provider is not significantly less expensive than a lawyer, find another provider or get a lawyer. Immigration Services Providers operating in Illinois cannot charge more than \$75 per one completed application.
- Make sure you get a written contract in English and in your native language. Read it carefully before signing. Make sure you get a copy of the contract and any other documents the provider prepares for you.
- Do NOT sign blank forms.
- Understand your three-day right to cancel. In Illinois, Immigration Services Providers are required to provide you with a three-day right to cancel your contract.
- Whenever you make a payment, get a signed receipt.
- Do NOT let the Immigration Services Provider keep your original documents or photos.

## **Do Not Use an Immigration Services Provider Who:**

- Makes promises that sound too good to be true.
- Pressures you to pay immediately.
- Refuses to answer your questions.

**Chicago**  
**1-800-386-5438**  
**1-800-964-3013 (TTY)**

**Springfield**  
**1-800-243-0618**  
**1-877-844-5461 (TTY)**

**Carbondale**  
**1-800-243-0607**  
**1-877-675-9339 (TTY)**

**Línea Gratuita en Español : 1-866-310-8398**

**[www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov](http://www.IllinoisAttorneyGeneral.gov)**