

provided by:

MARCOS NEGRON & AKAIKE, LLP.
(English site) (Japanese site) - disclaimer -



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Press Release

July 22, 2004

Contact: USCIS Public Affairs
202-353-8472

USCIS PLANS TO LAUNCH INFOPASS NATIONWIDE

Online Appointment System Eliminates Need to Wait in Line for Immigration Information

New York, NY – Calling InfoPass a customer service milestone, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today formally opened the Internet-based appointment system to residents of the New York City area. USCIS also announced its commitment to implement InfoPass nationwide that would include 33 USCIS Districts by September 2004. With InfoPass, the public can go online to schedule a date and time to meet with immigration information officers, avoiding the need to wait in line. First developed in Miami, the New York District Office is now one of four key sites that currently offer this convenient and customer friendly initiative.

USCIS Director Eduardo Aguirre, who attended today's launch, predicted that InfoPass will ultimately mean the end of the line to wait in line outside the New York District Office, which served more than 350,000 people last year.

"This is another important stride for USCIS in our commitment to offer customers first rate service," Director Aguirre said. "InfoPass debuted last year in Miami and in a matter of weeks we saw a dramatic decrease in the lines and wait times for our clients. We're optimistic we'll have similar results in New York and in all of our offices."

InfoPass is now offered in 12 languages including: Arabic, Chinese, Creole, English, French, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Russian, and Vietnamese. USCIS plans to add additional languages in the future.

Typically, customers would begin lining up at several USCIS offices sometimes before dawn to ensure they have an opportunity to speak with an immigration information officer about their case. Because of the overwhelming demand, many people must be turned away.

"Now that we have InfoPass, people who come to our busiest offices can be assured they'll get the assistance they need," said Mary Ann Gantner, USCIS District Director in New York. "And they can schedule their appointments for a date and time that is convenient for them."

USCIS Customer Service Options Online

InfoPass is one of several USCIS innovations designed to make immigration services more convenient and accessible for the general public. USCIS also offers E-Filing that allows customers to go online to file for an immigration benefit. E-Filing currently supports eight of the more frequently used forms that account for over 50% of applications filed each year. By the end of 2006, E-Filing will support twelve forms that account for over 90% of the applications filed yearly.

Customers may also go online to check the status of their pending application, and build a portfolio of up to 100 cases to check. USCIS also offers customers e-mailed updates when the status of their case changes.

Customers may access all USCIS Internet-based services on www.uscis.gov.

National InfoPass Deployment Schedule for USCIS District Offices (tentative):

August 9th – Buffalo, Newark, Philadelphia

August 16th – Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Portland, ME, New Orleans

August 18th – Chicago, Houston

August 23rd – Cleveland, Detroit, San Juan, Washington D.C.

August 30th, Anchorage, Honolulu, Phoenix, Portland, OR, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle

September 8th – Denver, El Paso, Harlingen, Helena, Kansas City, Omaha, San Antonio, St. Paul

- USCIS -



Fact Sheet

July 22, 2004

Contact: USCIS Public Affairs
202-353-8472

INFOPASS – IMMIGRATION INFORMATION BY APPOINTMENT

InfoPass is an Internet-based system that enables the public to go online to schedule appointments with immigration information officers at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) offices. If you have a complex immigration question or need that is best addressed by a trained USCIS officer in person, InfoPass offers a convenient alternative to waiting in line for assistance. InfoPass is a secure Internet site.

HOW DOES INFOPASS WORK?

- ❑ You access the system by typing www.uscis.gov into your Internet browser window. No special software is necessary. The only requirements are a computer with a browser and Internet access.
- ❑ The InfoPass home page asks you to select your preferred language. InfoPass is currently offered in 12 languages.
- ❑ Follow screen prompts asking for your zip code, name, birth date, phone number, desired appointment type, date, and time.
- ❑ InfoPass generates an electronic appointment notice, which appears on the screen.
- ❑ InfoPass appointments are available in two-week blocks.

WHAT SHOULD I TAKE TO MY APPOINTMENT?

- ❑ Bring a print out of the appointment notice. The notice gives the date and time of the appointment, the USCIS office address, and instructions on any additional documents required.
- ❑ Be prepared to present personal identification, such as a government-issued ID card, passport, valid driver's license, I-94, Work Authorization Card, or *green card* (I-551).
- ❑ Bring any forms, receipts, translations, and original documents related to your inquiry.
- ❑ You can cancel and reschedule appointments over the Internet using the identification numbers at the bottom of your appointment confirmation notice.
- ❑ If you lose your appointment notice, you may generate a replacement by accessing InfoPass and entering the information requested.

IS INFOPASS FOR ME?

You may not need to visit a USCIS office to receive the assistance you need. Immigration forms are available on the agency's website at www.uscis.gov, or by calling the National Customer Service Center (NCSC), 1-800-375-5283. Customers can also file for an immigration benefit by using E-Filing. E-Filing currently supports eight of the most frequently used forms that account for over 50% of the applications filed each year. To check the status of an application filed with a USCIS service center, you can also go online and select "Case Status Online."