

NEWS ALERT!!! NEWS ALERT!!!

Deferred Action for Certain Young Immigrants

On June 15, 2012, the Obama Administration announced a ground-breaking policy of granting “deferred action” to certain qualified youth (“DREAMers”) who were brought to the United States as children and who pose no threat to national security or public safety. “Deferred action” will be granted on a case-by-case basis for two years and is subject to renewal. It does not provide automatic citizenship or permanent residency but rather prevents removal from the US for the two-year period and offers eligible individuals the right to apply for an employment authorization document (“EAD”). Therefore, individuals who are currently in removal proceedings or have final orders of removal will also be eligible for deferred action.

While this policy is effective immediately, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) alerts eligible individuals NOT to submit a deferred action application at this time as a formal application process has not yet been implemented. **If you submit an application now, your application will be rejected.** USCIS has announced that it will implement and publish information on the application process within the next 60 days. You can contact our law office or visit USCIS’s website for further updates.

In order to be eligible for deferred action, individuals must prove through verifiable documentation that he/she:

1. Came to the United States under the age of sixteen;
2. Has continuously resided in the United States for at least five years prior to June 15, 2012 and is present in the United States on June 15, 2012;
3. Is currently in school, has graduated from high school, has obtained a general education development certificate (GED), or is an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States;
4. Has not been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, multiple misdemeanor offenses, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety (including but not limited to: gang membership, participation in criminal activity, or participation in activities that threaten the United States);
5. Is not above the age of thirty.

Individuals must also complete a background check and, for those individuals who make a request to USCIS and are not subject to final order of removal, must be fifteen years or older.

Please note that this new policy does NOT provide lawful status to an individual, nor does it pardon individuals of any periods of unlawful presence previous or subsequent to the grant of deferred action. Additionally, this policy does not automatically grant deferred action status to qualified individuals' family members or dependents; each member must independently satisfy the eligibility criteria in order to apply.

For more information, please contact our law office to set up a **free consultation** with the attorney. Consultations are available during the week and two Saturdays a month. Our website is <http://aboutimmigrationlaws.com>.