

**AMERICAN IMMIGRATION LAWYERS ASSOCIATION  
USCIS CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE  
QUESTIONS FOR JUNE 28th, 2016 MEETING  
101 W. CONGRESS PARKWAY  
CHICAGO, IL 60605**

**Interpreters**

1. a. Please confirm that officers are aware that all parties, regardless of immigration status or citizenship, have the right to use an interpreter at adjustment of status or I-751 interviews as indicated in Chapter 15.7 of the Adjudicator's Field Manual. Members report that certain officers have suggested that lawful permanent resident or US citizen petitioners should not require an interpreter and have expressed frustration at their use of an interpreter, leading interviewees to feel they should not or cannot use an interpreter. Another officer has even indicated that petitioners are not allowed to use interpreters.

**Interpreters may be used by a petitioner if the petitioner requires it for an adjustment of status interview or I-751 interview.**

- 
- b. Many interpreters take notes while interpreting, to assist in recall of addresses, dates, etc. Please remind officers that interpreters are allowed to take notes during an interview to assist in their interpretation.

**We will remind the officers that the interpreters may take notes that assist with their interpretation.**

**Descheduling / Rescheduling**

- 
- 
2. Members report recently receiving a number of Notices of Descheduling for Naturalization applications. Previously, cases were descheduled due to the visit of Deputy Secretary Mayorkas. Is there any explanation for this new group of descheduled cases?

**We are unaware of any mass de-scheduling aside from the Deputy Secretary Mayorkas' visit on May 4th. Please provide a date and the number of cases that were descheduled.**

3. What is the current delay in rescheduling I-130 or I-485 interviews after an approved request to reschedule? At what point should attorneys reach out to inquire over a delay in rescheduling, and to whom should the inquiry be directed?

The Adjudications Unit will mail notification of a rescheduled interview date within 90 days from the original interview date. Please email [chi245resched@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:chi245resched@uscis.dhs.gov) if a new interview notice has not been received within this time frame.

### **I-551 Stamps**

4. The Chicago Field Office has regular provided I-551 stamps for recently approved adjustment applicants who need to travel prior to the arrival of their Permanent Resident Card. Stamps have also been provided to LPRs for other reasons such as employment authorization or another need to show one's status while awaiting the Permanent Resident Card. Has there been any change to this policy?

This policy has not changed.

5. At least one member has reported that a stamp was not given to a LPR who needed to leave the US prior to receiving the Permanent Resident Card because the card was "in production." However, card issuance is regularly delayed and the cards are often lost in the mail or arrive with errors. Please confirm Chicago will issue an I-551 stamp when a reasonable reason is provided

Correct. Chicago will issue an I-551 stamp when a new LPR awaiting their new first I-551 if the LPR establishes exigent circumstances. Each situation is evaluated individually.

LPRs are able to track the shipment of their I-551 and pinpoint the delivery date using [www.uscis.gov/casestatus](http://www.uscis.gov/casestatus) online.

### **Parole-in-Place**

6. What are current processing times for parole-in-place requests? Who should attorneys contact when a request is outside of processing times?

We attempt to process parole-in-place requests within 60 days of filing. If you have not received a decision after 60 days, you may contact Stacey Summers, Branch Chief, Customer Service Unit.

7. Members report clients appearing at the parole-in-place "pick-up" appointments and being further questioned about the request, for example, regarding bona fides of the

marriage, entries, exists, and/or arrests. Does additional adjudication of the request occur at these appointments, or is the appointment simply to pick up the parole document?

Generally, calling the applicant in for issuance of the parole document means adjudication is complete. Occasionally, there may be additional information received after adjudication that might alter the decision. If so, it may be necessary to interview the applicant again to determine whether the new information affects eligibility for the approval of parole-in-place requests. In applicable cases, we will amend our appointment notices to specify that we intend to question the applicant about eligibility issues.

### **Early Priority Date Adjustment Filings**

8. Members report that some of these cases continue to be scheduled for interviews even when priority dates are not available. We had previously understood that these cases would not be scheduled until priority dates would be available. Has there been a change in this policy? Who schedules these appointments, the local office or the Service Center? What happens after such an interview i.e. is the file returned to the Service Center?

The majority of cases interviewed at the Chicago Field Office are scheduled through the NBC. If a case inadvertently reaches the field before a priority date is current, the Chicago Field Office will:

- 1) Interview as scheduled.
  - 2) Return the file to the National Benefits Center (NBC) for monitoring of a current priority date and final adjudication if it appears to be approvable at the time of the interview.
9. What is the current delay in rescheduling I-130 or I-485 interviews after an approved request to reschedule? At what point should attorneys reach out to inquire over a delay in rescheduling, and to whom should the inquiry be directed?

Please refer to the response provided for Question #3.

### **Naturalization/Citizenship**

10. If the applicant has only one name can the Naturalization certificate be issued in that one name without the designation of first or last name unavailable? (FNU or LNU)

Only an applicant's complete legal name may appear on the certificate. Before naturalization, the applicant may present a valid court order or other proof that the applicant has legally changed his or her name in the manner authorized by the law of the applicant's place of residence. If the applicant submits such evidence, then USCIS will issue the Certificate of Naturalization in the new name. If you have a case such as described above please bring it to the Branch Chief's attention.

11. Are you able to provide the sworn statement template that is provided to N-600 applicants who are unable to provide their I-551 card as discussed in the May 2016 meeting?

We are unable to provide this template since it is not publicly available.