




**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

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AFM Update AD10-09

## Interoffice Memorandum

To: Executive Leadership

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Date: **DEC - 2 2009**

SUBJECT: Additional Guidance Regarding Surviving Spouses of Deceased U.S. Citizens and their Children (REVISED)

Effect of FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act on eligibility to immigrate after death of visa petitioner

Revisions to Adjudicator's Field Manual (AFM) Chapter(s) 21.2(a)(4) and (h)(1)(C)  
(AFM Update AD10-09)

### **I. Purpose**

This memorandum supersedes an earlier memorandum on this subject, dated November 13, 2009, and provides updated guidance to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) field offices and service centers regarding the processing of Forms I-130, petitions for alien relative, and I-485, application to register permanent residence or adjust status, filed by surviving spouses of deceased U.S. citizens and the qualifying children of the surviving spouses. This new guidance is based on the enactment of section 568(c) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2010, Pub. L. No. 111-83, 123 Stat. 4142, 4186 (2009), which provides

relief for these aliens. Section 568(c) entered into force on October 28, 2009, the date of enactment.

Sections 568(d) and (e) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act, which provide relief for aliens who are surviving beneficiaries of certain pending or approved petitions filed by certain qualifying categories of noncitizens, will be addressed in a separate memorandum.

## **II. Background**

### **A. Prior Policy and Related Litigation**

For many years, U.S. immigration policy has been that a Form I-130 could not be approved if the petitioner died while the Form I-130 was pending. *See Matter of Sano*, 19 I&N Dec. 299 (BIA 1985); *Matter of Varela*, 13 I&N Dec. 453 (BIA 1970). As far back as 1938, our immigration regulations have provided for the revocation of the approval of a visa petition upon the petitioner's death. More recently, the regulations, while maintaining that general policy, have provided for discretion, for "humanitarian reasons," to reinstate the approval. 8 C.F.R. § 205.1(a)(3)(i)(C)(2). Also, since 2006, 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(i)(1)(iv) and 205.1(a)(3)(i)(C)(1) have provided that the automatic revocation provision does not apply to a spousal immediate relative visa petition, if the deceased petitioner and the alien widow(er) had been married at least two years when the petitioner died.

Over the past several years, widow(er)s of citizens who had died before the second anniversary of the underlying marriages have challenged this long-standing policy as being inconsistent with the statute. The federal courts of appeals have split on the legal issue. *Compare Robinson v. Napolitano*, 554 F.3d 358 (3d Cir. 2009) (sustaining agency view that petitioner's death while a Form I-130 is pending ends the beneficiary's eligibility); *petition for cert. filed*, No. 09- 94 (U.S. filed July 23, 2009), *with Taing v. Napolitano*, 567 F.3d 19 (1st Cir. 2009) (holding agency policy violative of statute); *Lockhart v. Napolitano*, 561 F.3d 611 (6th Cir. 2009) (same); *and Freeman v. Gonzales*, 444 F.3d 1031 (9th Cir. 2006) (same). The issue has engendered much litigation before the federal district courts in recent months, with most courts ruling against the agency. Among the unfavorable decisions is the class action ruling in *Hootkins v. Napolitano*, \_\_\_ F. Supp. 2d \_\_\_, 2009 WL 2222839 (C.D. Cal. Apr. 28, 2009), which is on appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Other cases are pending in district courts throughout the United States.

### **B. Section 568(c) of FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act**

Congress, however, recently acted to resolve the issue. On October 28, 2009, the President signed into law the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act. Section 568(c) of the new law amends the second sentence in section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the INA so that, for a widow(er) of a citizen to qualify as an immediate relative, it is no longer necessary for the couple to have been married at least two years when the citizen died. The second sentence of section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) now reads,

In the case of an alien who was the spouse of a citizen of the United States and was not legally separated from the citizen at the time of the citizen's death, the alien (and each child of the alien) shall be considered, for purposes of this subsection, to remain an immediate relative after the date of the citizen's death but only if the spouse files a petition under [section 204(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the INA] within 2 years after such date and only until the date the spouse remarries.

When a widow(er) qualifies as an immediate relative under the second sentence in section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the INA, his or her children, as defined in sections 101(b)(1) and 201(f) of the INA, also qualify. The amendment made by section 568(c) applies equally to aliens abroad who are seeking immigrant visas and aliens in the United States who are seeking adjustment of status. The amendment applies to any alien whose spouse died before October 28, 2009, and who had a Form I-130 pending on October 28, 2009. If no Form I-130 was pending, then an alien whose U.S. citizen spouse died before October 28, 2009, and before the second anniversary of their marriage, may file a visa petition under section 204(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the INA so long as (a) the alien has not remarried, and (b) the petition is filed no later than October 28, 2011.

Section 568(c) relates only to the impact of the citizen's death on the alien's eligibility for classification as an immediate relative. All other requirements for approval of a visa petition remain in force. In particular, the alien must still establish that he or she was the citizen's legal spouse, and that the marriage was a bona fide marriage and not an arrangement solely to confer immigration benefits on the alien. If the alien was in removal proceedings at the time of the marriage, the "clear and convincing evidence" standard in section 245(e)(3) of the INA will still apply to the adjudication of the visa petition. If the necessary visa petition is approved, the alien may then seek an immigrant visa or adjustment of status. The alien must still establish that he or she is admissible as an immigrant and, in an adjustment case, that he or she meets all other adjustment eligibility requirements and merits a favorable exercise of discretion.

In light of this new legislation, the policy guidance stated in the November 8, 2007, memorandum entitled "Effect of Form I-130 Petitioner's Death on Authority to Approve the Form I-130" (AFM Update AD08-04) is obsolete. This memorandum amends the Adjudicator's Field Manual to remove the material added in that earlier memorandum.

### **III. Policy Guidance and AFM Update**

#### ***AFM Update***

1. Chapter 21.2 of the *AFM* entitled "Factors Common to the Adjudication of All Relative Visa Petitions" is amended by
  - a. Removing chapter 21.2(a)(4)
  - b. Removing the **Note** at the end of chapter 21.2(h)(1)(C).

**A. Widow(er)s with pending cases**

Section 568(c)(2)(A) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act makes the amendment to the second sentence in INA section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) applicable to any visa petition or adjustment application “pending on or after the date of enactment.” As noted, the date of enactment is October 28, 2009.

*1. Reopening of pending Form I-130 cases*

For purposes of this amendment, a Form I-130 will be deemed “pending” on October 28 2009, if the deceased citizen had filed a Form I-130 on or before that date but:

- USCIS has not adjudicated the Form I-130;
- USCIS denied the Form I-130, but USCIS granted a motion to reopen or reconsider, so that the Form I-130 is, again, pending;
- USCIS denied the Form I-130, but has not yet ruled on a motion to reopen or reconsider;
- USCIS denied the Form I-130, but the alien’s appeal from that decision is pending before the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) or the period for appeal of the adverse USCIS decision to the BIA had not yet expired; or
- The USCIS or BIA decision denying the Form I-130 is the subject of pending litigation before a federal court (including cases in which the district court issued a decision before October 28, 2009, but the appeals period established by law had not yet expired).

Under 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(i), a citizen’s spousal Form I-130 is automatically converted to a widow(er)’s Form I-360 if, on the date of the citizen’s death, the beneficiary qualifies as a widow(er) under the second sentence in section 201(b)(2)(A)(i). Under section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act, these aliens now qualify under the second sentence. Thus, any Form I-130 that is “pending” as described in the preceding paragraph will be deemed to be, and adjudicated as, a widow(er)’s Form I-360.

In any Form I-130 case in which a motion to reopen or for reconsideration was filed, but not acted on, USCIS will grant the motion and make a new decision in light of section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act.

Any Form I-130 that is the subject of litigation in any federal court on the issue of the effect of the petitioner’s death is, as of the date of this memorandum, reopened for a new decision in light of section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act. The beneficiary need not file a separate motion. Nor does it matter, for purposes of reopening the Form I-130, whether the beneficiary is currently in the United States or abroad. If the decision denying or terminating action on the Form I-130 was pending in any court on October 28, 2009, the decision is now

reopened. USCIS will therefore make a new decision in light of section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act.

Cases challenging the denial of a spousal immediate relative Form I-130 based on the petitioner's death have been filed in district courts throughout the United States. USCIS officers must consult with the appropriate regional or service center counsel to identify those cases that are the subject of litigation that was pending on October 28, 2009. Once a case is identified as subject to reopening under this memorandum, the USCIS officer will notify the alien in writing that the Form I-130 is reopened in light of section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act, and will be readjudicated as a Form I-360.

If it is determined that a Form I-130 had been filed but was not "pending" on October 28, 2009, because a USCIS decision denying the Form I-130 had become final before October 28, 2009 (and no administrative appeal or civil action challenging the denial was pending on October 28, 2009), please refer to part III(B) of this memorandum.

## *2. Reopening of pending Form I-485 cases*

Section 568(c)(2)(A) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act also makes the amendment applicable to any Form I-485 that was pending on the date of enactment. A Form I-485 is deemed "pending" on the date of enactment if it was filed before the deceased citizen's death but:

- USCIS has not adjudicated the Form I-485
- USCIS denied the Form I-485, but USCIS granted a motion to reopen or reconsider, so that the Form I-485 is, again, pending
- USCIS denied the Form I-485, but has not yet ruled on a motion to reopen or reconsider;
- The Form I-485 is the subject of litigation before a federal court (including cases in which the district court issued a decision before October 28, 2009, but the appeals period established by law had not yet expired).

With this guidance memo, USCIS also reopens, without the need for a formal motion, any Form I-485 that is the subject of litigation on this issue in any federal court, if USCIS still has jurisdiction to act on the Form I-485. As with the reopening of the related Form I-130, the USCIS officer will notify the applicant in writing that the Form I-485 is reopened in light of section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act.

In the case of a widow(er) who entered the United States as a K-1 nonimmigrant, and filed a Form I-485 after marrying the deceased citizen who had filed the Form I-129F, ordinarily there will not be a Form I-130. If the Form I-485 is still "pending" as described in this memo, and USCIS still has jurisdiction to act on it, the Form I-485 will also be reopened for a new decision in light of section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act, without the need for a formal

motion. Since no Form I-130 is required for a K-1 nonimmigrant to seek adjustment after marrying the K petitioner within the period specified by statute, the K-1 nonimmigrant will also be deemed the beneficiary of a Form I-360 if the K-1 nonimmigrant now qualifies as a widow(er). The K-1 nonimmigrant still may not adjust on any basis other than the K-1 nonimmigrant's having married the citizen petitioner who filed the Form I-129F.

Some aliens may have been placed into removal proceeding after USCIS denied their Forms I-485. Except for "arriving aliens," this factor would mean that USCIS no longer has jurisdiction to adjudicate the Form I-485. 8 C.F.R. § 245.2(a)(1) and 1245.2(a)(1). USCIS would have jurisdiction to adjudicate the Form I-485 only if the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) terminated the removal proceeding. Whether to support or oppose terminating a removal proceeding is a matter for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to decide, not USCIS. If a USCIS office reopens a Form I-130 involving an alien in removal proceedings, the USCIS office must, through the appropriate USCIS counsel, advise the local counsel for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Some aliens whose citizen spouses had died may have left the United States voluntarily, without obtaining a grant of advance parole. Others may have left after obtaining advance parole, but may have remained abroad after expiration of the Form I-512. Under 8 C.F.R. § 245.2(a)(ii)(4)(B), these aliens have abandoned their adjustment applications. Also abandoned is the adjustment application of an alien who left as the result of removal proceedings. 8 C.F.R. § 245.2(a)(4)(ii)(A). In these situations, a Form I-485 will not be deemed "pending" for purposes of section 568(c)(2)(A). However, where section 568(c) applies to the approved Form I-130, and the Form I-130 has been approved as a Form I-360, the alien approved on that I-360 who has left the United States may apply for an immigrant visa abroad.

### *3. Petition already approved before death*

If a widow(er) is the beneficiary of a Form I-130 that was approved before the citizen petitioner's death, it is not necessary for the widow(er) to request humanitarian reinstatement of the approval. Under 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(i)(1)(iv), the approved Form I-130 is automatically converted to an approved Form I-360. Any children of the widow(er) will also be eligible to seek an immigrant visa or adjustment of status based on the converted petition.

There may be some cases in which a spousal immediate relative Form I-130 was approved, but the approval was revoked automatically under 8 C.F.R. 205.1(a)(3)(i)(C) upon the citizen petitioner's death. If the alien is now eligible for classification as the widow(er) of a citizen under section 568(c)(2)(A) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act, the approval will be deemed to have been reinstated, effective October 28, 2009. No separate request for reinstatement is necessary. Under 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(i)(1)(iv), the Form I-130 will be deemed to be an approved Form I-360.

#### 4. *Admissibility issues*

Whether an alien is actually admissible is not germane in adjudicating a Form I-130. *Matter of O-*, 8 I&N Dec. 295 (BIA 1959). The only issue resolved by enactment of section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act is that the death of the citizen spouse, by itself, does not make the widow(er) ineligible for immediate relative classification. Thus, the alien must still be admissible as an immigrant to obtain adjustment of status or an immigrant visa.

For those aliens, however, who had pending Form I-130 cases, and who now can benefit from section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act, two inadmissibility grounds warrant special consideration. The first is section 212(a)(9)(B)(i) of the Act, under which an alien is inadmissible if the alien seeks admission within a specified period after the alien leaves the United States, if the alien has accrued a lengthy period of unlawful presence. The second is section 212(a)(9)(A), under which an alien who has been removed (or who left the United States while under a final administrative order of removal) must obtain consent to reapply, if the alien seeks admission within the period set in section 212(a)(9)(A).

It is important to note that the special provisions in this memorandum relating to INA section 212(a)(9)(A) and (B) apply only to an alien who was the beneficiary of a Form I-130 that was filed by a now-deceased spouse petitioner, and that can now be approved as a Form I-360 under section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act. The purpose of these special provisions is simply to minimize the adverse effect on these aliens of the disputed, and now resolved, issue of the impact of the death of the petitioning spouse on the alien's eligibility.

##### a. Unlawful presence

By specifying, in section 568(c)(2)(A) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act, that the amendment should apply to pending cases, Congress indicated its desire to resolve these cases fully. For this reason, for purposes of INA section 212(a)(9)(B)(i), if an alien remained in the United States while awaiting the outcome of Form I-130 that can now be approved as a Form I-360 under section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act, the alien will be deemed *not* to have accrued any unlawful presence. This protection applies even if the alien was not actually in a lawful status while the now-converted Form I-360 was pending.

An alien who had a Form I-130 pending on October 28, 2009, but who is present in the United States without a lawful admission or parole generally cannot obtain adjustment under INA section 245(a). Rather, the alien must generally seek adjustment under INA section 245(i). But this relief is not available to an alien who did not have a petition or labor certification filed before April 30, 2001. Thus, even if the Form I-130 can now be approved as a Form I-360, the alien may need to leave the United States to obtain an immigrant visa. But since, under this guidance memorandum, the alien will be deemed *not* to have accrued any unlawful presence, he or she will not be inadmissible under INA section 212(a)(9)(B)(i).

Again, these special provisions relating to the accrual of unlawful presence apply only to an alien who is the beneficiary of a spousal immediate relative Form I-130 that was pending on October

28, 2009, and that is now approved under section 568(c)(2)(A) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act and 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(i)(1)(iv) as a widow(er)'s Form I-360: the widow(er) and his or her accompanying child(ren). Ordinarily, the pendency of a visa petition, itself, does not prevent accrual of unlawful presence. A pending adjustment application, by contrast, does prevent accrual of unlawful presence. *Adjudicator's Field Manual* chapter 40.9(b)(3)(A). Most aliens who have been in litigation because the death of a spouse led to denial of the Form I-130 are probably already protected from unlawful presence under the ordinary provisions in the AFM. This broader protection against unlawful presence, for this narrow class of cases, is designed to maximize the ability of those aliens whose specific situations gave rise to the new legislation to fully benefit from it.

b. Consent to reapply for admission after removal

These protections against accrual of unlawful presence apply even if the alien was actually removed from the United States under a removal order. Still, because the alien was removed under a valid order, the alien is inadmissible under INA section 212(a)(9)(A)(i) or (ii). USCIS, however, has discretion under section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii) to consent to the alien's re-application for admission. USCIS should generally exercise discretion favorably and grant an application for consent to reapply under section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii), if:

- The Form I-130 that had been filed by the alien's spouse has now been approved as a Form I-360 under section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act;
- The alien is otherwise admissible, and
- The alien's case does not present significant adverse factors beyond the removal itself.

A USCIS adjudicator will not deny a Form I-212 filed by an alien whose case was in litigation on October 28, 2009, and whose Form I-130 has been approved as a Form I-360 under section 568(c)(2)(A) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act without consulting USCIS Headquarters through appropriate channels.

5. *Remarriage*

Any immediate relative Form I-130 that was filed on behalf of the spouse of a U.S. citizen, and that was pending on October 28, 2009, is no longer a spousal immediate relative Form I-130. By operation of 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(i)(1)(iv), what was filed as a spousal immediate relative Form I-130 is now a widow(er)'s Form I-360. The converted Form I-360 may be approved only if the beneficiary, who is now also deemed to be the petitioner, qualifies as the widow(er) of a citizen, as described in INA section 201(b)(2)(A)(i). Eligibility for classification as an immediate relative continues "only until the date the spouse remarries."

## 6. *Ninth Circuit cases*

In acting on the guidance in this memorandum, USCIS adjudicators must keep in mind that the *Hootkins* case was certified as a class action. Thus, an individual need not be a *named* Plaintiff in *Hootkins* in order for his or her Form I-130 and Form I-485 to be reopened under this memorandum. If an individual has not already been identified as a member of the *Hootkins* class, that individual may make a written request to have his or her Form I-130 and Form I-485 reopened and readjudicated. The purpose of the written request is simply to *identify* the case as a *Hootkins* case. The individual is not required to pay the filing fee for a motion to reopen. The case will be considered a *Hootkins* class member case if the case was denied on or after August 30, 2001,<sup>1</sup> and:

- either the citizen spouse petitioner or the alien spouse beneficiary lived in the Ninth Circuit when the citizen spouse died; or
- a USCIS office in the Ninth Circuit made the prior decision on the Form I-130 or Form I-485.

### **B. Widow(er)s without pending cases**

The alien widow(er) of a citizen who died before October 28, 2009, but who did not have a Form I-130 pending on that date, may now file a Form I-360, provided that he or she does so no later than October 28, 2011, and has not remarried. FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act § 568(c)(2)(B). Section 568(c)(2)(B) applies if the citizen spouse did not file a Form I-130 on the alien spouse's behalf before dying. But it also applies if there was a Form I-130 filed, but the decision denying the Form I-130 had become administratively final before October 28, 2009, because the decision was not the subject of any type of administrative or judicial review that was pending on October 28, 2009. Note that section 568(c)(2)(B)(i) says the Form I-360 must be filed "not later than the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment." Thus, a Form I-360 that is filed *on* October 28, 2011, will still be timely. A Form I-360 filed on or after October 29, 2011, will be untimely.

For any case in which a citizen dies on or after October 28, 2009, the alien widow(er) must file the Form I-360 within 2 years of the citizen's death.

### **C. Children of widow(er)s**

The child of a widow(er) whose Form I-360 is approved may, as specified in the second sentence of INA section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) and in INA section 204(a)(1)(A)(ii), be included in the widow(er)'s petition. Whether an individual qualifies as the widow(er)'s "child" is determined according to INA sections 101(b)(1) and 201(f).

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<sup>1</sup> Any case denied before August 30, 2001, is time-barred under 28 U.S.C. § 2401(a). But even if a Ninth Circuit case is not considered "pending" because of *Hootkins*, the alien may still be eligible to immigrate as the widow(er) of a citizen, if the alien has not remarried and files the Form I-360 no later than October 28, 2011.

In a case in which the deceased citizen had filed a Form I-130 for his or her spouse, and the Form I-130 can now be adjudicated as a Form I-360 widow(er)'s petition, the child(ren) of the widow(er) will be deemed to be included in the converted Form I-360. Thus, it will not be necessary to act on any separate Form(s) I-130 that the deceased citizen may have filed for the widow(er)'s children. And the child(ren) of the widow(er) will be deemed included in the converted Form I-360 even if the deceased citizen had not filed any Form(s) I-130 for the child(ren).

Note that, in light of INA section 201(f), whether an individual qualifies as the "child" of a widow(er) depends on the individual's age when the visa petition was filed. For those cases that were pending on October 28, 2009, the Form I-360 filing date is deemed to be the date on which the deceased citizen filed the prior Form I-130. If a widow(er) has an unmarried son or daughter who was under 21 when the deceased citizen filed the Form I-130, that individual will still be deemed to be under 21 for purposes of the widow(er)'s now-converted Form I-360.

#### **D. Affidavits of support**

Under section 212(a)(4)(C)(i)(I) of the INA, a Form I-864 (Affidavit of Support under Section 213A of the Act) is *not* required in the case of the widow(er) of a citizen and the widow(er)'s accompanying children.<sup>2</sup>

#### **E. Conversion of deferred action applications filed under prior guidance**

While remedial legislation was pending in Congress, the Secretary of Homeland Security directed the use of deferred action relief to allow widow(er)s of citizen whose cases may have been affected by the legislation to remain in the United States. In the September 4, 2009 Memorandum, "Guidance Regarding Surviving Spouses of Deceased U.S. Citizens and their Children," USCIS designated the Form I-360 as the form an individual would use to request deferred action under the Secretary's policy.

Now that Congress has enacted the legislation, any Form I-360 that had been filed to obtain deferred action relief, and that has not yet been adjudicated as a deferred action request, will now be considered to be, and adjudicated as, a widow(er)'s visa petition under 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(b). If the Form I-360 has already been approved as a deferred action request, it will be reopened and adjudicated as a visa petition under 8 C.F.R. § 204.2(b). It is not necessary for the alien to file a formal motion, nor to pay a new Form I-360 filing fee. Additionally, any prior grant of deferred action relief need not be rescinded and should remain undisturbed.

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<sup>2</sup> There may be an individual case in which, regardless of the Form I-864 issue, the factors specified in INA section 212(a)(4)(B) and the standard public charge guidance, as published at 64 Fed. Reg. 28689 (1999), will support a finding that a widow(er) is inadmissible as an alien likely to become a public charge. Even in this case, a Form I-864 is not required. Rather, since the statute does not specifically require the Form I-864, the Form I-134 can be used instead. 8 C.F.R. § 213a.5. It is important to note that, on a Form I-134, the sponsor does not have to meet the requirements in INA section 213A(f), and so does *not* need to be someone who could have been a "substitute sponsor" in a case in which a Form I-864 actually is required.

Under the deferred action guidance, an alien could file a Form I-765, application for employment authorization, only if the deferred action request had been granted. Now that a Form I-360 that was filed to request deferred action is deemed to be a widow(er)'s visa petition, the alien can, if otherwise eligible, file a Form I-485 even before the approval of the Form I-360. 8 C.F.R. § 245.2(a)(2)(i)(B). Filing the Form I-485 permits the alien to file a Form I-765. 8 C.F.R. § 274a.12(c)(9).

## **F. Implementation**

Section 568(c) of the FY2010 DHS Appropriations Act became effective on October 28, 2009, the date of enactment. USCIS offices and centers, therefore, are to begin implementing the instructions established in this memorandum immediately. USCIS adjudicators should note that Congress clearly intended to benefit the aliens affected by these provisions.

**AFM Transmittal Memorandum Revisions. The AFM Transmittal Memorandum button is revised by adding a new entry, in numerical order, to read:**

AD 10-09 [Date of Signature]	<b>Chapter 21.2</b>	This memorandum removes chapter 21.2(a)(4) and the <b>Note</b> at the end of chapter 21.2(h)(1)(C) to reflect enactment of section 568(c) of Public Law 111-83.
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## **H. Contact Information**

Questions regarding this memorandum should be directed to the Office of Domestic Operations through appropriate channels. For cases adjudicated overseas, questions should be directed to the International Operations Division, Programs Branch.

This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

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