



March 7, 2024

PA-2024-03

## Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Mobile Biometrics Collection in Remote Locations

### Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is updating guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) to further clarify existing policy on providing mobile biometrics collection services to benefit requestors residing in remote locations within the United States.

### Background

As part of its administration of immigration benefits, USCIS has the general authority to require and collect biometrics, which include fingerprints, photographs, and digital signatures, from any person who has submitted an immigration benefit request, including derivatives, beneficiaries, or both. In most circumstances, USCIS schedules benefit requestors for a biometric services appointment at a local Application Support Center (ASC).

Under certain circumstances, USCIS may provide mobile biometrics collection services to those who are unable to attend scheduled ASC appointments in person. On March 7, 2023, USCIS published guidance addressing biometrics collection from benefit requestors in remote locations.<sup>1</sup> USCIS is now updating policy guidance to clarify the existing policy that USCIS, in its sole discretion, determines when it will provide mobile biometrics collection services and in what manner.

This guidance, contained in Volume 1 of the Policy Manual, is effective immediately. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance on the topic.

### Policy Highlights

- Clarifies that USCIS has the sole discretion to determine when it provides mobile biometrics collection services to those residing in remote locations within the United States.

### Summary of Changes

Affected Section: Volume 1 > Part C > Chapter 2 > Section B, Mobile Biometrics Collection

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<sup>1</sup> See [Domestic Mobile Biometrics Collection and Remote Domestic Applicant Biometrics Collection](#), PA-2023-06, issued March 7, 2023.

- Reorders first and second paragraphs.
- Removes footnote from end of first paragraph under italicized subheading “Remote Locations.”
- Deletes the second and third paragraphs under the italicized subheading “Remote Locations” and adds new second paragraph.

USCIS may also make other minor technical, stylistic, and conforming changes consistent with this update.

### **Citation**

Volume 1: General Policies and Procedures, Part C, Biometrics Collection and Security Checks, Chapter 2, Biometrics Collection [[1 USCIS-PM C.2](#)].