



Cautions on Names of Regional Centers and Enterprises, and Unauthorized Use of DHS Seal

Names of [EB-5](#) regional centers and related commercial enterprises should not contain terms such as “United States,” “U.S./US” or “Federal.” Such use may falsely imply a relationship between the entity and USCIS, DHS and the U.S. government. Using such names on websites or promotional and marketing materials could also be considered deceptive and may violate federal laws governing unfair trade and false advertisements. See 15 U.S.C. §§ 45 and 52.

If a regional center or related commercial enterprise has a questionable name, the Immigrant Investor Program Office (IPO) may refer the entity to the Federal Trade Commission for further action.

Additionally, the use of “Federal” or “United States” in advertising by businesses in the financial services sector may violate 18 U.S.C. § 709, which prohibits false advertising or the misuse of names to indicate a federal agency. In this situation, IPO may refer regional centers and related commercial enterprises with questionable naming practices to the Department of Justice for further action.

Unauthorized Use of the DHS Seal and USCIS Signature

No one, including EB-5 regional centers, may use the official U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) seal without first obtaining express written approval from the Secretary or a designee. Express written approval is also required to use the DHS seal coupled with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) signature.

For information on how to request approval to use the DHS seal, visit the [Use of the Department of Homeland Security Seal](#) page.

If an EB-5 regional center or related entity displays the DHS seal or USCIS signature on its website, electronic and printed forms, or promotional and marketing materials without express written approval, USCIS may refer the regional center or related entity to the Department of Justice or the Federal Trade Commission for further action.

If you use the DHS seal or USCIS signature without approval, you may be:

- Improperly implying that the U.S. government is endorsing the regional center;
- Inaccurately suggesting a special relationship with USCIS;
- Engaging in unfair or deceptive trade practice under 15 U.S.C. §§ 45 and 52; and
- Violating U.S. criminal statutes which protect the DHS seal and USCIS signature and which address the improper use of federal agencies' seals, official badges, identification cards and other insignia. See 18 U.S.C. §§ 506, 701 and 1017.

Improper use of the DHS seal and USCIS signature can confuse the public and prevent people from being able to identify official communications from DHS or USCIS. This harms DHS' and USCIS' ability to effectively communicate with the public. Therefore, the department only permits the use of the DHS seal and USCIS signature for very specific purposes.