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About this Presentation

Date of last legal review: June 25, 2020

Any references in documents or text, with the exception of case law, relate to fictitious individuals.

This presentation contains no sensitive Personally Identifiable Information (PII).
Northern Mariana Islands
Long-Term Resident Status
Topics of Discussion

✓ Who can file
✓ General requirements
✓ When to file
✓ Application process
✓ Period of stay
✓ Travel outside the CNMI
✓ Parole
✓ Tools and resources
Who can file?

You must fall into one or more of the following categories:


✓ Spouses and unmarried children under the age of 21 of foreign nationals born in the CNMI between January 1, 1974, and January 9, 1978.

✓ Individuals who were permanent residents of the CNMI on November 27, 2009.

✓ Spouses and unmarried children under the age of 21 of an individual who was a permanent resident of the CNMI on November 27, 2009.
Who can file? (cont.)

You must fall into one or more of the following categories: (cont.)

✓ Individuals who, on November 27, 2011, were either a spouse, child or parent of a U.S. citizen, and continue to have such family relationship with the citizen.

✓ Caregivers of critical medical or special needs individuals in the CNMI who on December 31, 2018, had a grant of parole under the former USCIS parole program for certain in-home caregivers.
General Requirements

You must also:

✓ Have been lawfully present in the CNMI on December 31, 2018, or June 25, 2019, under the immigration laws of the United States, including under a grant of parole under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act or deferred action;

✓ Be admissible as an immigrant to the United States under the INA, except that no immigrant visa is required;

✓ Have resided continuously and lawfully in the CNMI from November 28, 2009, through June 25, 2019; and

✓ Not be a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of Palau.
When to File

⚠️ Important Reminder

You may only apply for CNMI long-term resident status between February 19, 2020 and August 17, 2020.
To apply for CNMI long-term resident status, you must complete and submit:

✓ **Form I-955, Application for CNMI Long-Term Resident Status**, including all evidence listed in the Form I-955 instructions; and

✓ **Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization**. Use eligibility category for CNMI long-term resident status on Form I-765 is listed as “Applicant for Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Long-Term Resident Status -- (c)(37).”
Application Process (cont.)

Required Initial Evidence

✓ Photocopy of a government issued identity document with photo
✓ Photocopy of your birth certificate
✓ Evidence that you have been ‘inspected and admitted’ or ‘inspected and paroled’
✓ Photocopy of your marriage certificate and other proof of relationship if you are applying as the spouse or child of a stateless individual, permanent resident of the CNMI, or United States Citizen
Application Process (cont.)

Required Initial Evidence (cont.)

✓ Evidence of lawful presence in the CNMI on December 31, 2018 or on June 25, 2019
✓ Evidence of continuous and lawful residence in the CNMI from November 28, 2009, through June 25, 2019
✓ Evidence of financial support
✓ Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record, may be required. If required, USCIS will issue a Request for Evidence.
Application Process (cont.)

Required Initial Evidence (cont.)

✓ Certified police and court records of any criminal charges, arrests, or convictions
✓ Waiver of inadmissibility (if applicable)
✓ Two (2) passport style photos (for Form I-765)
✓ Any documents in a language other than English must be submitted with a certified English translation
✓ Please visit the Form I-955 webpage for more information.
Application Process (cont.)

$ Filing Fee

✓ There is no filing fee for Form I-955.

✓ You must file Form I-765 with all fees in accordance with the instructions. (Form Fee of $410 plus $85 biometric services fee, for a total of $495.)

✓ There are no fee exemptions or waivers.

✓ Please visit the Form I-765 webpage for more information.
Where to File

Submit the completed applications, required evidence, and filing fee to the USCIS Dallas Lockbox.

Please visit the [Form I-765](https://www.uscis.gov/) webpage to find the correct address.

For U.S. Postal Service (USPS):
USCIS
P.O. Box 650890
Dallas, TX 75265

For FedEx, UPS, and DHL deliveries:
USCIS
Attn: I-765 C37
2501 S. State Highway 121 Business Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067
If your Form I-955 is approved, you will receive an employment authorization document (EAD) as evidence of your CNMI Long-Term Resident Status.

Your EAD will be valid for five years.

You must renew your EAD every five years by filing Form I-765 with all applicable fees.
As a CNMI long-term resident, you may remain in the CNMI for as long as you hold this status. You will lose status if you:

- Cease to reside in the CNMI, or
- Adjust status under section 245 of the INA to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or otherwise become a lawful permanent resident.
- Travel to Guam or elsewhere in the United States without permission.
Travel outside the CNMI

As a CNMI long-term resident, there are restrictions on your travel outside of the CNMI.

✓ You must obtain advance approval to travel to any other part of the United States (including Guam), except to travel in direct transit between the CNMI and a foreign place through Guam.

✓ If you travel to Guam or elsewhere in the United States in violation of these restrictions, your status will automatically terminate.
Travel outside the CNMI (cont.)

To request advance approval to travel, you must file Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, with fee, at the USCIS Guam Office by mail. Along with your completed Form I-131, you must include:

✓ A statement describing the purpose of your intended travel;
✓ The specific dates of your trip;
✓ Travel destinations; and
✓ Any supporting documentation you wish to have considered in deciding your request.

Mail your Form I-131 to:

USCIS Guam Field Office
770 East Sunset Blvd, Ste. 185
Tiyan Barrigada
GU 96913
On June 17, 2020, USCIS announced an automatic extension of parole, and employment authorization if applicable, for certain aliens present in the CNMI.

- Applies to current parolees whose parole status will expire on June 29, 2020.
- Automatic extension of parole (and employment authorization, if applicable) through August 17, 2020.
- For parolees who file for CNMI long-term resident status by August 17, USCIS will announce additional relief while their application is pending.
- If a parolee does not file for CNMI long-term resident status by August 17, their parole status will end on August 17.
Self-Help Tools and Resources

The **USCIS webpage** offers the following:

- ✓ Check your *case status*
- ✓ *Change your address*
- ✓ Check *processing times*
- ✓ Download *forms*
- ✓ **Explore My Options**
- ✓ **Ask Emma**
- ✓ Create an account on **myUSCIS**
- ✓ **CNMI Long-Term Resident Status** webpage

Or call the USCIS Contact Center at 800-375-5283.
The Wrong Help Can Hurt

Visit the USCIS Avoid Scams webpage to learn more about:

✓ Form filing tips;
✓ Common immigration scams;
✓ How to report immigration scams; and
✓ How to find legal services and help.
Questions?