



August 1, 2006

Press Release

USCIS MIAMI DISTRICT ASSISTS IN ARREST OF SEX OFFENDER

MIAMI – A registered sex offender was arrested yesterday after officers from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) discovered he had violated the terms of his parole. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement arrested William Smith, of Lumber City, Ga., in the Miami District office of USCIS after Smith appeared with his wife for an immigration benefit interview.

Routine background checks conducted by USCIS revealed that Smith was a registered sex offender on probation for a rape conviction in the state of Georgia. USCIS Immigration Officers then determined Smith may have violated the terms of his parole by relocating to Florida. After being contacted by USCIS, the Georgia Bureau of Investigations issued a warrant for Smith's arrest. Agents from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement later arrested Smith at the USCIS Miami District office on Biscayne Boulevard.

Smith and his wife were at the USCIS Miami District for a scheduled interview with an USCIS Adjudications Officer to determine her eligibility to adjust status to a legal permanent resident. Smith, as his wife's sponsor, was required to appear at the interview.

"When we encounter individuals who have violated the law, we will take action," said Dr. Emilio Gonzalez, Director of USCIS. "As part of the Department of Homeland Security, the public expects us to ensure the safety and security of the United States."

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On March 1, 2003, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) became one of three former INS components to join the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. USCIS is charged with fundamentally transforming and improving the delivery of immigration and citizenship services, while enhancing the integrity of our nation's security.