

ALERT – SPECIAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

**IF YOU ARE A MALE CITIZEN OR NATIONAL OF –
AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, EGYPT, ERITREA,
INDONESIA, IRAN, IRAQ, JORDAN, KUWAIT, LEBANON, LIBYA, MOROCCO,
NORTH KOREA, OMAN, PAKISTAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, SOMALIA,
SUDAN, SYRIA, TUNISIA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, OR YEMEN:**

It is very important that you be aware of new **Special Call-In Registration Requirements** in the United States. If you are required to register with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and willfully fail to do so, there may be serious negative consequences – potentially including arrest, detention, deportation, criminal penalties, fines and/or future problems with applications for immigration benefits.

Who is Required to Register?

The Special Call-In Registration Requirements can be complicated and confusing. The government has issued Notices in the Federal Register, saying who must register. Even with these Notices, it may be difficult for you to determine if you should register. **The best approach is to consult an attorney or other immigration law expert, especially if you have any question about your immigration status.**

The **first Notice** applies the Special Call-In Registration Requirements to any male citizen or national of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan or Syria, who:

- Was born on or before November 15, 1986; and
- Was inspected by the INS and was last admitted to the United States as a “nonimmigrant” on or before September 10, 2002; and
- Will remain in the United States at least until December 16, 2002.

Persons covered by the first Notice can now register between January 27, 2003, and February 7, 2003. (The Feb. 7, 2003 deadline is an extension of the original deadline of December 16, 2002, for this group.)

The **second Notice** applies the Special Call-In Registration Requirements to any male citizen or national of Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Lebanon, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates or Yemen, who:

- Was born on or before December 2, 1986; and
- Was inspected by the INS and was last admitted to the United States as a “nonimmigrant” on or before September 30, 2002; and
- Will remain in the United States at least until January 10, 2003.

Persons covered by the second Notice can now register between January 27, 2003, and February 7, 2003. (The Feb. 7, 2003 deadline is an extension of the original deadline of January 10, 2003, for this group.)

The **third Notice** applies the Special Call-In Registration Requirements to any male citizen or national of Pakistan or Saudi Arabia, who:

- Was born on or before January 13, 1987; and
- Was inspected by the INS and was last admitted to the United States as a “nonimmigrant” on or before September 30, 2002; and
- Will remain in the United States after February 21, 2003.

Persons covered by the third Notice must register between January 13, 2003, and February 21, 2003. The registration deadline for persons covered by the third Notice is February 21, 2003.

The **fourth Notice** applies the Special Call-In Registration Requirements to any male citizen or national of Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, or Kuwait, who:

- Was born on or before February 24, 1987; and
- Was inspected by the INS and was last admitted to the United States as a “nonimmigrant” on or before September 30, 2002; and
- Will remain in the United States after March 28, 2003.

Persons covered by the fourth Notice must register between February 24, 2003, and March 28, 2003.

The registration deadline for persons covered by the fourth Notice is March 28, 2003.

Dual Citizens & Dual Nationals: The INS says that its registration requirements apply to aliens who are citizens or nationals of a designated country, regardless of any dual citizenship or dual nationality.

Who Does Not Have To Register?

The INS has said that the Special Call-In Registration Requirements do not apply to the following people:

- Women
- Citizens of the United States
- Lawful permanent residents of the United States
- Persons who have been “paroled” into the United States
- Individuals who have been granted refugee status
- Individuals who have been granted asylum
- Individuals who applied for asylum on or before Nov. 6, 2002 (for persons covered by the first Notice) or on or before Nov. 22, 2002 (for persons covered by the second Notice) or who had an application for asylum pending on Dec. 18, 2002 (for persons covered by the third Notice) or who had an application for asylum pending on Jan. 16, 2003 (for persons covered by the fourth Notice)
- Persons who hold “A” or “G” visas (those with diplomatic visas and representatives and employees from accredited international organizations)

Remember: The Special Call-In Registration Requirements apply only to persons who, when they last entered the U.S., were inspected by the INS and admitted as “nonimmigrants.” If your last entry into the U.S. was not legal (was without inspection and admission), the INS says that you do not have to register.

Requirements for Special Call-In Registration

People who are required to register must go in person to a designated INS office. The INS web site (www.ins.gov) lists which INS offices are open for Special Call-In Registration. You can also get this information from the INS hotline (1-800-375-5283).

At the Registration, you will have to answer questions under oath. You will also be photographed and fingerprinted, and you will be required to present the following documents:

- Your travel documents, including your passport and the Form I-94 that was issued when you were admitted, and any other forms of government-issued identification;
- Proof of your residence (such as a lease or rental agreement);
- Proof of employment, if you are here on a work visa; and
- Proof of your enrollment in an educational institution, if you are here on a school visa.

Get written proof that you registered. If an INS officer says you do not have to register, ask for written proof that you tried to register and ask for the name of the INS officer who says that you do not have to register.

Be Careful

Many people are concerned about the Special Call-In Registration Requirements and what will happen to them

if they do or do not register. There are serious potential consequences for people who register but have any problems with their immigration status, but there are also serious potential consequences for people who are supposed to register and willfully fail to do so. Failing to register can, for example, make you deportable.

Some people have registered without serious problems, while others have been arrested and detained by the INS. At different INS offices, there have been some important differences in how the INS has treated people who have come to register. Some people who have been detained have had pending applications to adjust their immigration status to that of a lawful permanent resident. If you have applied for adjustment of status or will soon do so, there may be negative consequences if you do not register, so it is best to consult an immigration attorney about registering. If you have a problem with your immigration status – for example, if you overstayed your visa, or do not have enough class hours for your student visa, or are working without proper authorization, or changed or left your school without the INS’s permission, or have been arrested for a crime, or you did not appear for an immigration or court hearing, etc. – there is a risk that you will be detained and/or the INS will try to have you deported. But you may have certain defenses to deportation. Because immigration law is so complicated, it can be very difficult to know if you have a problem with your immigration status unless you get advice from an attorney. **If you have any question about whether you are required to register, you should immediately consult an attorney or other immigration law expert, especially if you have any question about or problem with your immigration status or if you have applied (or will soon apply) for adjustment of status.**

You have the right to bring an attorney with you to the Registration, and it is best to do so even though you are not required to have an attorney. If you cannot get an attorney to accompany you, tell a family member or friend with legal immigration status when you are going to register so that someone will know where you are if you get detained. If you need a translator, call ahead to ask if one will be provided; you can also bring someone with you who has legal immigration status and speaks English well enough to translate for you.

If you miss the deadline that applies to you: It is unlikely that there will be any more extensions of the registration deadlines. The INS says that persons who miss the deadline should still register as soon as possible, but that each individual will be expected to explain and document why he was not able to register by the deadline. An INS officer should then determine whether the person “willfully” ignored the registration requirement. It is too soon to tell how the INS will really treat people who try to register late, so it is very important that you contact an attorney if you missed the deadline.

Additional Registration Requirements: (1) If you must report for the Special Call-In Registration, you will also have to register again within 10 days of each anniversary of your registration (e.g., if you registered on Dec. 20, 2002, you will have to register again between Dec. 10 and Dec. 30, 2003) if you remain in the U.S. for one year or longer after your initial registration. (2) A change of address, employment, or educational institution must be reported to the INS within 10 days (see www.ins.gov for the correct form). (3) People who must register may leave the United States only through designated ports (see www.ins.gov). (4) People (including men and women from other countries) who have been entering the U.S. since September 11, 2002, may have other registration requirements.

Registration requirements may change over time, and more countries may be added to the program. **Stay up to date.** For more information, check www.aifl.org/lac/911 and www.adc.org and www.cair-net.org.

Report experiences with the registration process by completing a questionnaire at www.aila.org/specialreg.html.

This Alert comes from the American Civil Liberties Union, American Arab Institute, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, American-Iranian Alliance, Council on American-Islamic Relations, Midwest Immigrant & Human Rights Center, National Association of Muslim Lawyers, National Council of Pakistani Americans, and National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild.

This Alert is intended only to inform the community about the existence of the Special Call-In Registration Requirements. It is not legal advice and is not an endorsement of the registration program.