



US Immigration Newsletter

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Mistakes to Avoid when Applying for Legal Papers



Applying for legal papers is by far one of the most stressful tasks for undocumented immigrants. Not only is it imperative for people to get their documents in order, but it is also essential for them to exercise due

diligence when filling out forms to maximize their chances of approval.

With that said, however, it's unfortunate that large numbers of people end up making the same common mistakes when it comes to applying for legal papers. Needless to say, making the same mistakes as everyone else does not only result in reduced chances of approval, but you also end up losing all the money spent on legal services.

Since we know that you'd like to get through with the process as easily as possible, here are mistakes that the USCIS recommends avoiding at all costs:

Leaving a document unsigned

An unsigned legal document is the last thing that you should submit if you are applying for legal papers. If a document without a signature is received, it is rejected and sent back to the applicant immediately.

Using old forms

Forms available on the USCIS website are updated regularly which is why the government agency recommends downloading the form directly from the official website and filling it out as soon as possible before sending it across for approval.

Submitting an incomplete form

According to the USCIS, all forms need to be filled in completely and failure to do so reduces the chances of approval considerably – if not eliminating the chances altogether.

Here's How to Maintain Permanent Resident Status

Obtaining permanent resident status is undoubtedly an extremely exciting event in the lives of immigrants interested in making it big in the United States. Unfortunately, however, what most permanent residents fail to realize is that being involved in certain activities can cause them to lose their status if the naturalization process has not been completed.

Here are some ways in which you can lose your United States permanent resident status:

Living outside the United States

While most people are already aware of the fact that living outside the United States for extended periods of time can result in abandonment of permanent resident status, the same also holds true if the border control officer feels like you intend to leave the country permanently.

In some cases, it is also possible for permanent resident status holders to lose their status simply if they were visiting family back home and had to extend their trips due to medical reasons. Not filing taxes with the IRS while living abroad also raises red flags and can mitigate your chances of naturalization.

From this, it is evident that you should try your best to remain within the country if you'd like the naturalization process to be completed seamlessly.

Convictions, crimes, and felonies

In certain cases, permanent residents can lose their status if they commit certain types of crimes and felonies. While there is an exhaustive list of conditions involved, it is important to note that getting in trouble with the law can be problematic even if you're trying to renew your green card.

It is, therefore, recommended that you steer clear of all illegal acts if you're interested in maintaining your legal status.

Marriage fraud

Fraudulent marriages are some of the most common ways in which illegal immigrants obtain legal resident status and start their journey towards naturalization. It is, therefore, important



Government Shutdown Causes Immigration Court Backlog to Increase to At Least 830,000 Cases



As many as 94,115 immigration hearings were delayed or canceled during the 5 week long government shutdown that began on 22nd December, 2018.

Since the government shutdown had essentially paralyzed the country, the number of new immigration cases filed in January 2019 was just under 5600 – one of the lowest figures in history.

This is particularly surprising because statistics revealed that the general number of new immigration applications every month in 2018 was between 20,000 and 25,000.