



INFORMATION FOR IMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS

Immigrant Visa Section, American Embassy Bridgetown, Barbados

Website: <http://barbados.usembassy.gov>

Once you have received a letter scheduling an appointment for you to come to the American Embassy Bridgetown and formally apply for an immigrant visa, please be sure to visit our website ([Bridgetown Immigrant Visa Website](#)) to make sure you are prepared for the interview. All members of your family immigrating with you must appear with you for the appointment. Each person immigrating, regardless of age, requires a separate visa and medical exam taken at the Diagnostic Clinic in Barbados ([Immigrant Visa Medical Examinations](#)).

If you cannot keep your visa appointment, please notify this office by telephone at 246 (246) 227-4110, Monday through Friday between 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm , Email: ConsularBridge2@state.gov.

IMPORTANT NOTES – These Most Common Mistakes Will Delay Your Visa Process:

Please read the instructions from the Embassy website ([Immigrant Visa Checklist](#)) carefully and be sure to bring all the requested documents or your application will be refused until you provide the missing documentation. You will be required to send the missing documents to our office via courier at your expense.

The most common reasons for refusing a visa application involve the I-864 and the police certificate:

- **I-864:** If it has been over a year since the I-864 Affidavit of Support was submitted by your sponsor or your sponsor filed a tax return after the I-864 was submitted, you **MUST** bring those tax returns or additional documents to the visa interview. The same applies to any joint sponsors or household members.

Documents to support the sponsor's I-864 include:

- Federal tax forms 1040 and W-2's for the **current taxable year**
- Recent job letter or pay stub

If the petitioner's annual income does not meet the [Poverty Guidelines](#), then an I-864 of an additional sponsor willing to assume financial responsibility for the sponsored immigrant(s) must be submitted. This additional form I-864 must include all the supporting documentation indicated in section above, as well as evidence that the Joint Sponsor is an American citizen or Legal Permanent Resident.

If the additional sponsor lives in the same household as the petitioner, he/she is considered a household member, and cannot fill out a separate I-864. The household member must execute an I-864A and include all the supporting documentation indicated in section above, as well as evidence that the Joint Sponsor is an American citizen or Legal Permanent Resident.

- **Police Certificates** – Please be aware that most police certificates are only valid for 1 year from the issuance date. **The police certificates that you submit in conjunction with your immigrant visa MUST be valid for at least 6 months after the date of your interview.** Please review our website to make sure you follow instructions regarding the police certificate requirement ([Immigrant Visa Checklist](#)).

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Proof of relationship for spouse and fiancé visas:

Please note that for spouse and fiancé(e) cases, the Embassy will ask for proof of relationship between the petitioner and spouse at the interview, which can include - correspondence, printed e-mails, phone bills, pictures, proof of time spent together, plane tickets, hotel reservations, copies of the passport pages showing the LPR or USC petitioner traveled to the country of the beneficiary, receipts if the petitioner mailed any money to the beneficiary, etc.

Permission for Minor Children to Travel and Live in the U.S.: Any applicant under 16 needs permission from BOTH parents list on the birth certificate to emigrate. A court may give custody to one parent, allowing that parent to take the child out of the country. If there is no court order, the other parent must send a notarized letter giving permission.

Passport: All immigrant visa applicants should bring a current valid passport and all previous passports, if applicable, at the time of the immigrant visa interview.

If approved, please be aware that you will NOT receive your visa the same day. In most cases the visa will be sent to you via courier at your expense. Beneficiaries should not make any travel arrangements for departure, dispose of personal property or make other life changes until the visa has been issued and received. An immigrant visa is valid for a maximum of six months from the date of issuance. Applicants must travel and apply for admission to the United States before their immigrant visas expire.

DNA Exam

In some cases, we may suggest to you that you undergo a DNA test to prove your relationship to the petitioner. This is most common when a birth certificate has a late registration, a late recognition of a child, or the name on the birth certificate has been changed. However, DNA may also be suggested when the applicant has no other proof of relationship with the petitioner.

DNA Genetic testing can be helpful to prove biological relationships. The laboratory that does the test must be approved by AABB (www.aabb.org.) In the case of a step-relationship with the petitioner, the DNA test should be with the biological parent. Only the panel physician contracted by the Embassy is qualified to collect DNA samples for applicants applying at the U.S. Embassy in Barbados.

The petitioner should contact the lab in the U.S. to obtain complete information on procedures and payment. You must then contact the panel physician to make the arrangements in Barbados. The approximate cost is \$700.00 U.S. Dollars or \$1400.00 Barbados Dollars.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Change in Visa Passback Procedures

The Embassy no longer provides same-day visa issuance. Instead, successful applicants have three options for passport delivery:

1. **Residents of Barbados** will receive their passports back via courier service. They may bring a prepaid courier air waybill to the interview, or arrange for return service with the DHL Customer Service desk in the Consular Section Lobby. DHL's cost for Barbados deliveries will be about US \$10.00, or BBD\$20.00.
2. **Applicants who are Caricom nationals** may leave their passports at the Embassy for visa issuance if they consult their local immigration departments for guidelines on what alternative documents they may use to return home. Caricom nationals may bring a prepaid courier air waybill to the interview, or arrange for their passport to be returned at the DHL Customer Service desk in the Consular Section Lobby. DHL's cost for one-way deliveries is about US \$24.00.
3. **Applicants who are resident in the BVI, Anguilla, Montserrat, the French and Dutch overseas departments, or who are living as immigrants in countries different than their nationalities**, will return home with their passports and send the passports back to the Embassy's Immigrant Visa Unit. Applicants may choose any courier service; DHL offers roundtrip service in the Embassy's consular district for about US\$48.00.

THE APPLICANT WILL PAY FOR THE DELIVERY AND RETURN OF THE PASSPORT. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS PROCESS WILL ONLY BE MADE IN GENUINE EMERGENCIES.

Applicants who need to provide more documentation to complete the immigrant visa process will take their passports with them on the day of interview and return the passports when they are advised to do so.

Given the new procedures, please do not make advance arrangements to travel to the United States after the visa interview.