



*Embassy of the United States of America  
Consular Section  
San Salvador*

## **Immigrant Visa Interview**

The day of your interview, you should arrive at the Consular entrance of the U.S. Embassy with your appointment letter at least thirty minutes before the scheduled time. In the waiting room, you will present your letter and then wait to be called by name.

Approval of your visa is not guaranteed – the Consular Officer will make the final determination if you are eligible to receive a visa under U.S. law. Immigrant visas are usually valid for six months from the date of issuance, which allows you six months to enter the United States. Approved visa packets will be mailed to the address on file by courier. Do not make plans to travel to the United States until you receive your visa by mail – approval of your visa is not guaranteed.

All family members who wish to receive a visa must appear in person for the interview on the scheduled day. If you or any of your family members are unable to attend the scheduled interview, you must reschedule your appointment to a later date through the <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/sv> or call the U.S. Visa Information Service Call Center phone number: (503) 2113-0344. From the United States please call: (646) 259-0557.

Applicants that lack the documents listed under “Required Documentation for Immigrant Visa Applicants” will need to schedule a new appointment to continue their immigrant visa interview at a later date. If the Consular Officer requires additional documents that are not listed here, you will be told how to submit these documents to the Consular Section, and your case will be processed only when all of the documents requested have been submitted.

### **Warnings:**

Although we are aware of the existence of agencies that offer assistance to visa applicants, neither the Consular Section nor the U.S. Embassy has contracted with these agencies to provide any kind of services, and such agencies are not affiliated with the U.S. Embassy in any way.

Please be aware that all visa forms necessary for the immigrant visa process are accessible and can be completed for free on our website, <http://spanish.sansalvador.usembassy.gov/visa-inmigrante/formularios.html>. Any offer from any person or agency to expedite your case for any amount of money is fraudulent and should be immediately reported to the Consular Section.

## **Required Documentation for Immigrant Visa Applicants**

Beginning April 3, 2012, all Immigrant Visa applicants will be required to appear for their interview with complete documentation at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador. Applicants who lack the required documentation listed below will be required to make a new appointment at <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/sv> or you by calling our U.S. Visa Information Service phone number: (503) 2113-0344 to continue their Immigrant Visa interview at a later date, once they are able to appear with ALL of the required documents. From the United States please call: (646)259-0557.

**Please note that *only* applicants with *all* of the following required documents will be allowed to complete their interview on the scheduled date. Please note that this list of documents is more extensive than what is required by NVC to schedule an appointment.**

**All applicants are required to bring the following documents to their interview:**

- Payment for visa fee (by cash or credit card) of \$404 for family-based visas or \$720 for employment-based visas, if not already paid;
- Original birth certificate, without modifications or corrections;
- Recent birth certificate, issued no more than three months prior to your interview date;
- Two passport-style photos of yourself and your petitioner, taken no more than 30 days prior to your interview. The photos must show your full face, looking directly at the camera, centered in the photograph, with a white background and no border. The face should cover 50% of the photograph area, and the ears should be clearly visible. The photo should be two inches by two inches (approximately 50 mm X 50 mm). Please write the name of the person in the photograph on the back side;
- Valid passport with at least six months of validity remaining;
- All previous passports used for travel to the United States., including all U.S. visas;
- Form DS-230, Part I and Part II (unsigned). This form must be filled out completely and accurately – failure to do so will result in delay of your case and possible denial of the visa due to inaccurate information. Any questions that are not applicable to your case should be answered “N/A”;
- Medical exam results. The results from your medical exams will be sent to the Consular Section directly by the doctor’s office. In order for the results to arrive in time for your interview, you must schedule your examinations at least three weeks prior to your interview appointment. Failure to complete the medical exams three weeks prior to your interview will require the applicant to schedule a new appointment to continue their interview at a later date. Please see the attached document, “Instructions for Scheduling Medical Exams,” for more information.
- Complete affidavit of support (Form I-864), signed by the petitioner, including proof of citizenship/residence, tax documents, and W2 forms from the most recent tax year. If the petitioner did not pay U.S. taxes, they must attach a signed letter explaining why they did not pay U.S. taxes, but they are still required to complete the I-864. If the I-864 includes income from more than one person, each person must complete and sign Form I-864A and attach it to the original form. If the petitioner does not earn enough income to support the beneficiary and all derivatives at 125% of the U.S. poverty guidelines, a second sponsor will need to complete and sign another Form I-864, including proof of citizenship/residence, U.S. tax documents, and W2 forms from the most recent tax year.

**Additional documents required for applicants that meet certain criteria:**

- Applicants who are 18 years or older must submit a police certificate for each country that they have lived in for at least six months after the age of 16. Police certificates for El Salvador should be issued by the National Civil Police.
- Applicants who are or have been married must submit their original marriage certificate for each marriage, current or prior.
- Applicants who have been divorced must submit an original divorce decree for each divorce.
- Applicants who have been widowed must submit an original death certificate for their deceased spouse.
- Applicants who have been arrested for any reason must submit all criminal records, including court proceedings and decrees of final judgment on their case.
- Applicants who have been detained in the United States at any time or deported from the U.S. must submit all documents relating to their immigration proceedings, including deportation orders, voluntary departure orders, and immigration court proceedings.
- Applicants who are being petitioned by their spouse or fiancé must submit proof of their relationship with the petitioner. This includes birth certificates of any common children, wedding photos, family/vacation/holiday photos, remittance receipts, cards/letters, proof of jointly-owned property, joint bank accounts, utility bills in both names, insurance policies in both names, joint tax returns, etc.
- Applicants who have served in the armed forces of any country must submit their military service records, including discharge record.
- Applicants who are being petitioned by their father *and* who were registered late or recognized by their father more than a year after their date of birth should submit their infant footprints from their birth hospital and baptismal certificate (only if the father's name appears on the documents), as well as photos. Applicants who have been in the United States illegally and were granted Temporary Protected Status or political asylum must submit all applications for TPS/asylum, any approval or denial documents, and cards issued to the applicant. Claims of TPS or political asylum will not be acknowledged without complete documentation – the burden of proof of legal status in the U.S. is on the applicant.
- Applicants with special needs or under the age of 14 must be accompanied to the interview by a biological parent, legal guardian (who must show proof of legal custody), or someone in possession of a notarized power of attorney for the biological parent or legal guardian. The accompanying adult must show proof of identification before the interview.

**Reminder: All of the documents lists above that apply to your case are required. You will be required to schedule a new appointment to continue your immigrant visa interview once you have assembled all of the required documents. Appearing for an appointment without these documents will significantly delay the processing of your case.**