

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IMMIGRATION SCAMS

Immigration law is complicated. Beware of fraudulent providers who may indicate otherwise. Seek out services only from immigration attorneys or DOJ Accredited Representatives.



What You Should Not Do

- Do not seek legal advice/services from notaries, consultants and accountants. They are not authorized to practice law in the United States.
- Do not pay for government application forms – forms are always free.
- Do not pay for legal services or application fees with gift cards, money transfers, payment apps, or cryptocurrency.
- Do not give original documents – always provide copies.
- Do not sign any blank or incomplete forms, or forms with false information.
- Do not sign documents that you do not fully understand.



Watch Out for False Promises

- Easy and fast ways to get green cards, work permits, visas or other benefits, even if you are not eligible.
- Statements indicating that there are no risks or consequences.
- Claims of special influence with immigration authorities.

Watch Out for Government Impersonators

- USCIS will only contact you through official channels, and never through your personal social media accounts.
- Official government websites and email addresses end with .gov.



What You Should Do

- Always ask questions – you should feel confident about the provider.
- Confirm that the provider is either a licensed attorney OR legal professional with accreditation from the US Dept of Justice to practice immigration law.
- Ask for a written agreement of services that is signed by provider – read the agreement before signing it, and keep the signed copy for your records.
- Get copies of documents prepared for you.
- Ask for a written receipt that includes the name and address of the provider.

Helpful Resources

- To find qualified and free immigration legal service providers in Illinois, scan the QR code or visit ilaccesstojustice.com
- Report scams to the following authorities:
 - City of Chicago | call 311
 - State of Illinois | call 1-800-386-5438

