

Spotlight: Immigration

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- We discuss the recent changes to DACA. welcome new members of our staff, and discuss recent TPS changes to Sudan and South Sudan

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DACA Program Ending

In this newsletter, we will talk about recent changes to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and what they mean for people with DACA.

On June 15, 2012, President Barack Obama announced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. This allowed people who had arrived to the United States before turning 16 to receive a work permit, giving them the ability to have a drivers license and social security card. Applicants had to have been physically present since June 15, 2007, been under 31 on June 15, 2012, and be enrolled in high school or have received a high school diploma or GED. Additionally, they were not eligible if they had committed any serious crimes.

On September 5, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the “winding down” of the DACA program, a decision made by President Trump. A memo from the Department of Homeland Security clarified what this would entail.

First, immigration will not accept any new applications for DACA. Applications that were submitted before September 5, 2017 would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Second, for current DACA holders whose work permits expire between September 5, 2017 and March 5, 2018, they must renew it as soon as possible. Applications received after October 5, 2017 by immigration will not be processed.

For applicants who currently have DACA, their work permits and periods of deferred action are valid until they expire, unless terminated or revoked.

For applicants whose Deferred Action expired before September 5, 2017 and who had not filed renewal applications before that date, they are no longer eligible to



renew their DACA’s. For applicants who applied to renew their DACA’s before September 5, 2017, their applications will be reviewed and processed in the normal manner.

A second part of the announcement related to advanced parole for DACA holders, which was the ability to receive a permit to travel outside of the United States. Immigration will no longer accept advanced parole applications (form I-131) from DACA holders.

Advanced parole applications that are currently pending will be administratively closed and the fee will be refunded. For those that have already been granted advanced parole, their travel document will remain valid but Customs and Border Patrol will retain the right to allow the person to enter or not, as they did before.

This announcement pertained ONLY to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Other forms of Deferred Action, such as Deferred Action which is given to U Visa and VAWA applicants who are waiting for a final decision on their case, are not affected.

If your DACA expires between September 5, 2017 and March 5, 2018, you must renew it before October 5, 2017.

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The information presented in this newsletter should not be considered legal advice. Please remember that immigration laws and regulations can change at any time. If you have a question about immigration law, you should speak with an immigration attorney. To schedule an intake appointment at Catholic Charities, please call (414) 643 8570 x. 4418.

By the Way...

We are excited to welcome two new members of our staff! We have hired a new immigration attorney as well as a new paralegal. Read on to learn more about them.

- Attorney Megan Harmon is a 2017 graduate of Marquette Law School. She was an intern at Catholic Charities in the spring of 2017, and is currently also pursuing her Master's degree in international relations. She is bilingual, and will work with families and individuals in various aspects of immigration law.
- Brianna Buch is a paralegal at Catholic Charities LSI as well as our current Jesuit Volunteer. She is a 2015 graduate of William and Mary where she received her degree in public health and economics. She comes to LSI from Epic Systems in Madison, Wisconsin

Welcome to all of our new staff members!

Changes to DACA.....(continued)

The cost of the DACA renewal application is \$495.00, plus any legal fees that you may have to pay the preparer of your application. There is no fee waiver available for this application.

There are some important things to know if you are a current DACA holder. First, if you currently have DACA, your work permit will be valid until the date of expiration.

Second, your social security number is yours for life. Though you will not be authorized to work after your work permit expires, that social security number will still be yours.

Third, you are not legally required to tell your employer that you have your work permit through DACA, and your employer is not allowed to fire you before the expiration date of your DACA. Though your employer may request an updated work permit, they are not able to fire you until the expiration date of your work permit.

If you currently have DACA, we recommend that you see a lawyer about your immigration options. You may be eligible for an immigration benefit through existing laws, such as a family-based petition or U nonimmigrant status.

Currently, no changes to the law have allowed a permanent path to Citizenship or residency for DACA holders. We recommend that you stay informed through a reputable source, such as CLINIC or the ILRC. Remember to avoid *notarios* and others who are not authorized to practice immigration law.



TPS CHANGES

TPS (Temporary Protected Status) periods for certain countries have recently changed. These changes apply to TPS holders from Sudan and South Sudan.

- TPS for **Sudan** will be ended on November 2, 2018. Current TPS holders from Sudan must re-register, and their new period of TPS validity will expire on November 2, 2018. Current TPS holders from Sudan are encouraged to make arrangement for return to their home country, such as applying for passports.
- TPS for **South Sudan** has been extended until May 2, 2019. Those holding TPS status from South Sudan must re-register.