

Spotlight: Immigration

Volume 3, Issue 1

January– March 2018

The Future of TPS

Inside Issue 1

- We discuss the recent changes to TPS, and share important reminders for tax season.

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The US Department of Homeland Security has made recent announcements regarding the continuation of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program for people from the following countries: Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. In this newsletter, we will discuss the recent announcements and detail other options that current TPS holders may have.

Temporary Protected Status provides lawful status and work authorization to those already in the United States from certain countries. The Secretary of Homeland Security decides when a country meets the requirements, and can renew the designation for 6, 12 or 18 months. There is no limit to the number of extensions a country can receive.

Temporary protected status was established for the following four countries due to natural disasters. These events made it impossible for the countries to handle the return of their citizens.

According to Migration Policy Institute, there are approximately 325,000 migrants from 13 TPS-designated countries that are living within the United States.

El Salvador– TPS El Salvador has been terminated, and will officially end on September 9, 2019. The re-registration period for Salvadorans is until March 19, 2018.

Haiti– Temporary protected status for Haitians has been terminated and will end on July 22, 2019. The re-registration period for Haitians is until March 19, 2018.

Honduras– A decision has not yet been made on the future of TPS Honduras. It is currently extended until July 5, 2018, but may be extended past that date. The re-registration period for Hondurans is now closed.



Nicaragua– TPS for Nicaragua has been terminated and will end on January 5, 2019. The re-registration period for Nicaraguans is now closed.

TPS holders who have re-registered will receive employment authorization documents (work permits) that are valid until the date of expiration of their country's TPS status, as well as automatic extensions of their current work permits. The automatic extension can be proven with a copy of the federal register notice related to the country, which can be found on immigration's website.

When TPS is terminated, current TPS holders will revert back to the status that they held before receiving TPS. TPS holders from countries who have had TPS for many years should consider having a consultation appointment with an attorney, as their immigration options may have changed.

There may be other possibilities for TPS holders, such as residency through a citizen or resident family member with an immigration waiver. Certain people from El Salvador that entered before 1990 may be eligible for benefits under NACARA.

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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...

Did you know that Legal Services for Immigrants has a YouTube channel? Our channel can be found at this website:



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaRqQrPqqvcxCYTeyZIKISw>.

On our YouTube channel, you'll find up-to-date and bilingual information about recent changes in immigration, as well as informative videos about the following topics and more:

- The Violence against Women Act (VAWA)
- Citizenship
- Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Subscribe to stay informed about recent changes in immigration. .

The Future of TPS (continued)

TPS holders may have additional options within deportation proceedings, including cancellation of removal and withholding of removal. Both of these benefits can only be asked for when the immigrant is in deportation proceedings.

TPS holders who have certain criminal records or who have prior orders of deportation are more likely to be at highest risk for deportation after TPS is cancelled. All TPS holders should take necessary precautions in case they are apprehended by immigration. These include applying for passports for all family members and collecting important medical and financial documents so that they can be easily found and managed by another family member, if necessary.

It may also be necessary to complete a legally binding document, for example a Power of Attorney, for assets such as a house.

All TPS holders whose designation has been terminated should speak with a qualified immigration attorney about their options.

Tax Season Reminders

It's tax season, and taxes are due on April 17, 2018. Here are a few important reminders about filing taxes:

- In Wisconsin, you must be legally married to file as "married filing jointly."
- Married people cannot file under "Head of Household" status. Only couples who have lived apart for more than 6 months, who are divorced, or who are legally separated and caring for a child can use this status.
- It is important to consider the number of dependents claimed, as this may affect eligibility for some immigration forms, such as the affidavit of support.
- You can list grandchildren, parents and nieces and nephews as dependents only if you paid more than 50% of that person's living expenses in the past year.
- When you receive a social security number, you can request your last three years of tax refunds. Remember that your social security number is your number for life.
- To receive Child Tax Credit, the child must be under 17 years old, you paid more than 50% of the child's expenses in the past year, and they lived with you for more than 6 months in the past year.

The IRS provides free and low-cost tax preparation at VITA clinics. Call (800) 906-9887 to find a site near you.