

NEW ICE ENFORCEMENT POLICIES

DHS/ICE TEMPORARILY
SUSPENDING MOST
IMMIGRATION
ENFORCEMENT



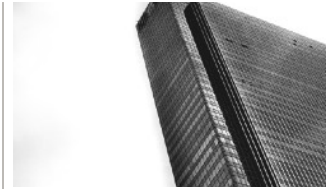
IMMIGRATION COURT CLOSURES

ALL 3 NEW YORK CITY
IMMIGRATION COURTS ARE



USCIS INTERVIEW CANCELLATIONS & CLOSURES

ALL INTERVIEWS SUSPENDED



VISA EXTENSIONS & WORK AUTHORIZATION

F1 STUDENTS ELIGIBLE

EFFECTS OF COVID-19 IN NY



USCIS Must Extend All Deadlines

Thousands of legal immigrants in the US have filings that are due in the coming days, weeks, and months. The Washington Post addressed this in an article they published yesterday titled, "Suspending immigration filing deadlines would save lives." They note that, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has the power to extend

CLOSING IMMIGRATION
COURTS & SUSPENDING
USCIS DEADLINES WILL
SAVE THOUSANDS OF
LIVES

MORE MUST BE DONE

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deadlines with, "a simple website notice, a stroke of the digital pen." Doing so could save thousands of lives, potentially, and reduce the risk of people falling ill from the novel coronavirus.

When people can't file paperwork because of the coronavirus pandemic, foreign nationals in the United States risk sacrificing their lawful status, or traveling when it's unsafe.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), sent USCIS a letter March 16, 2020, followed by a March 23, 2020, demand that USCIS:

- extend statutory or regulatory deadlines for immigration benefits;
- suspend all deadlines during the time of the COVID-19 national emergency; and
- extend any nonimmigrant status and otherwise maintain the status quo for purposes of eligibility for protection and immigration benefits processed by USCIS from the date the President declared a national emergency on March 11, 2020, until 90 days after the emergency proclamation ends.

AILA's demand further states that if no action is taken by March 27th then they will be forced to take more drastic steps to compel USCIS to suspend deadlines and adopt, "common-sense emergency measures that other agencies have already adopted."

AILA threatens litigation against USCIS stating, " we will have no choice but to view USCIS's inaction as a deliberate attempt to use the current crisis to paralyze the immigration bar and jeopardize the lawful status of hundreds of thousands of law-abiding foreign nationals. Failure to implement these measures will only further aggravate a dire situation."

DHS/ICE Immigration Enforcement Policy During COVID19 Pandemic

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has provided updated policies regarding Immigration Enforcement during the public health crises of the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/updated-ice->

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response, ICE will temporarily adjust enforcement beginning March 18, 2020. ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) will focus on the public safety risks and individuals subject to *mandatory detention* based on *criminal grounds*. For individuals who do not fall into those categories, ICE/ ERO will exercise discretion to delay enforcement actions until after the crisis or utilize alternatives to detention, as appropriate.

AILA further notes in their letters that USCIS' failure to close is not only putting legal immigrants and their immigration status in jeopardy but it will also put immigration lawyers, their staff, and other immigration advocates in grave danger by forcing them to return to work during the nationwide lockdown. These deadlines are forcing individuals to travel on mass-transit, meet face-to-face, and in soon will have to gather in groups of hundreds in USCIS waiting rooms.

The agency should and must act right now.

EOJ/EOIR Immigration Courts

All non-detained hearings scheduled through April 10, 2020, have been postponed.

Most Immigration Courts in the US are currently open but you should check the EOIR Website to check the status of the Immigration Court in your area. <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/eoir-operational-status-during-coronavirus-pandemic>

In New York City, all three Immigration Courts are currently closed but the Immigration Court on Broadway is open for filings only.

Immigration advocacy groups and immigration lawyers throughout the US are pleading with the Department of Justice (DOJ) to close the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR) Immigration Courts during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

We will keep you informed of any updates as the information becomes available.

For the latest news & information please visit our website: www.nyimmigrationcourt.com or www.jbclawoffice.com

If you have any questions about how this will affect an ongoing immigration case or a potential future case, or if you would like to discuss your immigration matter with an experienced immigration attorney you can email our office at: jbc@jbclawoffice.com

NO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AT HOSPITALS, DOCTORS' OFFICES, URGENT CARE, OR OTHER HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

During the COVID-19 crises, individuals should not avoid seeking medical care because they fear civil immigration enforcement.

During this crises, ICE will not carry out enforcement operations at or near health care facilities. ICE has publicly stated that this includes: hospitals, doctors' offices, accredited health clinics, and emergent or urgent care facilities, except in "the most extraordinary of circumstances."

<https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/updated-ice->