



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

March 1, 2018

Office of Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs ADVISORY

USCIS Interviews of Burmese Iowans

Last week, the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs was notified by members of the faith community that Burmese in Iowa are receiving letters from the [US Customs and Immigration Service](#) – an agency under the US Department of Homeland Security – asking they attend an interview at a set day and time in a specified district USCIS office.

At the interview, no interpreter will be provided, and legal representation is permitted. The spouse of the letter recipient is also required to attend. Interviews can last up to four hours.

USCIS will grant a request to change the location of a scheduled interview to a local office via this email address: uscis.mfi@uscis.dhs.gov

Several versions of the letter were sent, and the Office of Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs is advising Burmese in receipt of a letter to consult a reputable immigration attorney prior to the interview to understand their legal standing and due process afforded to them as a refugee, legal permanent resident or US citizen.

Due to the varying letters and the nuances contained in them, consulting with an attorney will ensure better and more informed choices presented on the day of the interview.

For many refugees, the cost of a quality attorney is a significant hurdle. Time-off from work when both heads of household are summoned to the same meeting is an added, undue burden.

Both interpreters and immigration attorneys may be sought by contacting this Iowa non-profit - Ethnic Minorities of Burma Advocacy & Resource Center (EMBARC), with locations in Des Moines, Waterloo and local community-based partnerships in other parts of Iowa.

Together with the [Community Attorneys of Iowa](#), [Justice for Our Neighbors](#) and other reliable legal advocates with immigration law expertise, EMBARC is helping to facilitate all requests from Burmese community members seeking legal representation and an interpreter.

Wondering if you can help? Please contact [EMBARC](#) or sign up to [volunteer](#). Those willing to lend their immigration law expertise or wondering how they can support Burmese refugees are also urged to contact [EMBARC at their Des Moines or Waterloo offices](#).

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
210 Walnut Street, Room 215
Des Moines, Iowa 50309



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

February 7, 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

A current U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) investigation has raised concerns about identity and biographic information provided to USCIS in a number of cases. In an effort to resolve these concerns, USCIS is requesting your cooperation in appearing for an interview, along with your spouse if you are married, scheduled at the USCIS, Des Moines Field Office on [REDACTED]

The interview will help USCIS determine the validity of the information of record and any impact that information may have on your current immigration status or eligibility for future immigration benefits. Please note that this interview is voluntary, but any failure to appear for the requested interview will not prevent USCIS from taking appropriate steps that may have an impact on your current immigration status. Please be advised that this interview is separate from any interview that USCIS may require regarding your application for naturalization. When our office begins processing your application for naturalization, we will send you a notice to appear for an interview in connection with that application.

Please note, the interview will be conducted in English. If you cannot speak English fluently, you should bring a competent interpreter in both English and your primary language, who must be at least 18 years of age. You may also appear with an attorney or accredited representative of your choosing at no expense to the government. The attorney or accredited representative must submit a properly completed Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative either prior to or at the interview. Generally, attorneys and accredited representatives with a properly filed G-28 may not serve as an interpreter.

Please bring your government issued identification and proof of your immigration status with you. In addition, you should bring any identity documents you have from the period prior to your admission to the U.S. If you have any questions, please contact uscis.mfi@uscis.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Marta Nickols
Field Office Director



[Tina Shaw](#) | Executive Officer

Office of Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs | Iowa Department of Human Rights

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Website: <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/cas/capi>