

December 9, 2015

Before we get to this week's question, we would just like to remind everyone, especially during the busy holiday period, to arrive no more than 15 minutes before your scheduled appointment time. If you come early, you'll just be waiting.

Your spouse cannot live with you on a visitor's visa

Q. *I am a U.S. Citizen who recently married my fiancé here in Jamaica. I'm arranging for my husband's immigrant visa and getting together all the documents. In the meantime, I hope my husband can be with me in the U.S. Can he come on his tourist visa to live with me while we sort out his immigrant visa?*

A. That's great news! Congratulations on your recent wedding!

Now, the not-so-great news: Your spouse CANNOT come and live with you on B1/B2 visitor's visa while you prepare to file her petition.

Your spouse's B1/B2 visitor's visa is intended for just that – temporary visits. He should not use it to live with you while you are completing the paperwork for his immigrant visa.

You may have heard that some types of Immigrant Visa can take years. This is not the case for spouses of U.S. Citizens. The process is much shorter but in order for the two of you to live together legally in the United States, you should file the petition as soon as possible. Once his Immigrant Visa case is processed to its conclusion, he would be entering the United States as a legal, permanent resident, and your lives together will be fully compliant with U.S. immigration law. Best wishes to you both, and please consult our website if you need further guidance as to how to complete his immigrant visa.

You can find more information about how to travel to the U.S. on our website, www.kingston.usembassy.gov and the website of our authorized service provider at www.usvisa-info.com. Keep on top of Embassy news on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/pages/US-Embassy-Jamaica and by following @USEmbassyJA on Twitter. We also answer general visa questions on our Facebook and Twitter pages

Remember your appointment time is your arrival time. You do not need to show up earlier than your appointment time.