

Are you planning to apply for the diversity visa program? Avoid these common mistakes that could cost you money or invalidate your application.

- 1) Mistake Number 1: Paying to register for the diversity visa program. There is no fee to apply for the diversity visa. Many internet scammers send people e-mails or letters saying they have been chosen to receive a diversity visa and asking them to send large sums of money to obtain the visa. Such requests are scams. Don't fall for them! The State Department does not notify winners of their selection. Instead, all applicants must monitor their entries at [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov) to learn if they have been selected.
- 2) Mistake Number 2: Indicating your current country of residency rather than your country of birth as your "foreign state of chargeability" on the application. Applicants are eligible for a diversity visa based on their country of birth, not on the country in which they are currently residing or the citizenship they hold, and chargeability is determined by place of birth. If you indicate the incorrect foreign state of chargeability, your application will be denied, so be very careful when answering this question!

*\* Please note that people born between 1948 and June 1967 are chargeable to the state that administered their region at the time. Thus, those born during that date range in the Gaza Strip are chargeable to Egypt, those born in the West Bank are chargeable to Jordan, and those born in the Golan Heights are chargeable to Syria.*

- 3) Mistake number 3: Submitting more than one entry. Only one entry is permitted per applicant. Attempting to enter more than one time in a given year will render all entries invalid.
- 4) Mistake number 4: Failing to list your spouse and children in the initial application. If you do not list them in your initial application, your application will be rendered invalid and neither you nor your family members will be eligible to receive a visa.
- 5) Mistake number 5: Not reading the instructions for the DV program and waiting until the end of the open season to submit your application. As a result, some are unaware of the rules and requirements of the program and miss the opportunity to apply. Others apply in time but are not aware of certain education or work requirements that must be met in order to be issued a visa. All applicants are advised to read carefully the instructions before applying.

For complete instructions and information on the 2014 diversity visa program, please visit [http://travel.state.gov/pdf/DV\\_2014\\_Instructions.pdf](http://travel.state.gov/pdf/DV_2014_Instructions.pdf). To apply for a diversity visa, please visit [www.dvlottery.state.gov](http://www.dvlottery.state.gov). The open season closes on November 3, 2012.