

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman**

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Media Note

**CONSULAR OFFICES ABROAD RESUME ACCEPTING
I-130 IMMIGRANT VISA PETITIONS**

Effective March 20, 2007, consular posts abroad are again authorized to accept petitions for immediate relative immigrant classification from American citizens, who are resident in their consular districts, U.S. service members, emergency cases involving life and death or health and safety considerations, and others determined to be in the national interest. Examples of family emergency would include minor children who would be unexpectedly left without a caretaker. Examples of national interest include facilitating the travel of United States military and other U.S. Government direct hire employees assigned overseas.

All lawful permanent residents, and American Citizens resident in the United States or with a permanent address in the United States, must file I-130 petitions at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) Service Center having jurisdiction over their place of residence. as indicated on the USCIS website: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-130.pdf>.

To demonstrate residency in a consular district, American Citizen petitioners must be able to show that they have permission to reside in the consular district and that they have been doing so continuously for at least six months before filing the petition. Individuals who are in the country on a temporary status, such as student or tourist, would not be considered to meet the residency standard.

