

STATE BAR OF TEXAS



**Committee on Laws Relating to
Immigration & Nationality**
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To Whom It May Concern:

Ms. Ninfa Luna, Product Line Manager of the Immigration and Naturalization Service's Texas Service Center (TSC), called today to let me know that the TSC has taken action to try to reduce the backlog for "immediate relative" petitions. As you know, these petitions are for the spouses and unmarried children under age twenty-one of U.S. citizens, as well as for the parents of U.S. citizens over age twenty-one. This was an area of concern that our Committee on Laws Relating to Immigration and Nationality raised with Ms. Luna at our meeting in El Paso on November 22, 2002.

According to Ms. Luna, the TSC recently transferred 5,000 immediate relative petitions to the INS' Missouri Service Center (MSC) for faster processing. The Service sent each U.S. citizen petitioner a letter indicating that his/her petition has been transferred to the MSC for prompt adjudication. These initial letters erroneously advised these petitioners that the MSC will be contacting them to schedule interviews.

The TSC has now sent each of these petitioners a second letter explaining that there is no need for an interview. The corrective letter indicates that the MSC will contact these petitioners with decisions on their cases.

Ms. Luna advised me that this is the beginning of an effort by the TSC to reduce the significant backlog of petitions pending for these close relatives of United States citizens.

Respectfully,

Paul Parsons
Chairman

Enclosure: Sample of TSC's corrective letter



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Texas Service Center
4141 N St. Augustine
Dallas, Texas 75227

<Date>

<Name>
<Address>

Dear Applicant:

You recently received a notice relating to the processing of your I-130 (Immigrant Petition for a Relative) stating that your petition had been transferred to Missouri and that you would be contacted about your interview. This notice was sent out in error and should be disregarded. At this time there is no need for an interview.

In an effort to complete the I-130 petitions, your I-130 has been transferred to Missouri for adjudication. You will receive a notice from the Missouri Processing Center notifying you of the final decision on your case. For status inquiries please call INS Direct at 816-251-1824

Sincerely

Evelyn M. Upchurch, Director
Texas Service Center