



THERE IS NO LEGALIZATION OR AMNESTY

WHAT ARE AMNESTY AND LEGALIZATION?

The government uses these to allow undocumented people to obtain lawful permanent residence (i.e., their green cards) in the United States. They must be passed by Congress and signed into law by the President. Currently, there is no new amnesty or legalization.

Be careful of services or businesses claiming they can get you legal status because of new laws.

USE A RELIABLE SOURCE OF IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

If you are wondering whether a new amnesty or legalization law has passed, call Catholic Charities of [CITY, STATE] at (XXX) XXX-XXXX for information.

If you file an application for amnesty or legalization now, you might be putting yourself in danger of being deported from the United States.

If someone has filed an application for amnesty or legalization on your behalf and you are worried that you might be placed in deportation proceedings, call Catholic Charities of [CITY, STATE] at (XXX) XXX-XXXX or visit them at [STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE – and cross streets]

BEWARE OF NOTARIOS

Beware of *notarios* or immigration consultants who offer advice on how to apply for an immigration benefit or prepare any applications or documents for filing with the immigration authorities. *Notarios* and immigration consultants are *not authorized to practice federal immigration law*.

Only licensed attorneys and persons accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) can represent immigrants before the DHS and the immigration courts. The BIA is the administrative appellate court in the United States for immigration law.

Accredited representatives must be employed by a nonprofit, religious, charitable, social service, or similar organizations that charges only nominal fees for its services and that has adequate knowledge, information, and experience in immigration law. *Notarios* and immigration consultants, on the other hand, are for-profit businesses. *Notarios* also charge high fees.

If you want to verify whether someone is licensed as an attorney in your state, call your state's bar association at: (XXX) XXX-XXXX. You may also find out whether any complaints have been filed with the state bar association against the attorney.

If you want to verify whether someone is accredited by the BIA, visit the BIA Web site at:
<http://www.usdoj.gov/eoir/statspub/raroster.htm>



-- IMMIGRATION WARNING --

TIPS

- **BE SUSPICIOUS OF PROMISES.** For example, if a *notario* or immigration consultant offers to get you a green card.
- **BELIEVE TRUSTED AUTHORITIES.** If several immigration attorneys and BIA *accredited representatives* say you are not eligible for an immigration benefit, beware of a *notario* or immigration consultant who now tells you differently.
- **BE CAUTIOUS WITH CASH-ONLY SERVICES.** Question any agency that requires you to pay in cash. However, many legitimate providers also require payment in cash. Exercise due caution.
- **IF EXPENSIVE, ASK OTHERS.** If the service is going to be expensive, get a second opinion before you pay.
- **PAYMENT TO WHOM?** Beware of writing out checks or money orders directly to a person rather than to the office. The person might pocket the money him/herself.
- **KEEP RECORDS OF PAYMENTS.** Whoever provides your legal services, make sure you pay by money order or check and make sure you keep the money order record or the cancelled check to prove that you paid for services.
- **KEEP RECORDS OF SERVICES.** Whoever provides your legal services, make sure you have a record of the full name and title of the person who helped you as well as the full name of the office, the office address, and the office telephone number.
- **ASK QUESTIONS.** If someone offers to provide you legal services for your immigration case, ask them about their educational background, training, and work experience in immigration law. Make sure you are getting what you pay for.
- **KNOW WHAT YOU SIGN.** Beware of people or agencies that want you to sign blank forms or applications. Do not sign them. Make sure you know and understand what you are signing.
- **Do not sign any forms or applications in a language you do not understand until someone who you trust can read and explain the form or application to you.**
- **GET A CONTRACT.** Make sure you get a written agreement from anyone offering you immigration legal services. Make sure you read and understand the agreement. If the agreement is not in your language, make sure that someone you trust explains it to you in your own language.
- **NO BRIBES.** It is against the law to bribe government officials. Therefore, do not pay a *notario* or an immigration consultant if they claim that they have an “in” at the DHS who can grant your application or that they can otherwise get you special treatment.