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Wexler Friedman LLP



Why Is Your Case Taking So Long? USCIS Processing Delays Have Now Hit Crisis Levels

Why Hasn't Your Case Been Decided Yet?

Nationwide, you and millions of families, businesses, and people applying for humanitarian relief are waiting longer for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to process and approve your applications and petitions.

Five years ago, an average case was taking about five months to process. By Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, that same applicant waited nearly 10 months. Those extra months of waiting halt business operations, keep families separated, and jeopardize people's lives.

Who Is Affected?

You and other people applying for family-based benefits, employment-based benefits, naturalization, travel documents, and employment authorization are all experiencing delays. In FY2018, a staggering **94 percent of all immigration petitions and application form types took longer to process** when compared to FY2014.



USCIS PROCESSING TIMES ARE ON THE RISE

FY 2017—7.98 Months FY 2018—9.48 Months

UP 19%

Why Are Cases Taking Longer?

Many factors can slow down your case. New policies at USCIS are restricting legal immigration. For example, one policy requires USCIS officers to conduct duplicate reviews of past decisions, adding unnecessary work to each case.

Such inefficient policies help explain why processing times are increasing even as USCIS application rates are decreasing. Recent USCIS data shows that USCIS's average processing time rose by 19 percent from FY2017 to FY2018, even while overall numbers of case receipts **declined** by 13 percent during that same period.

Congress intended USCIS to function as a service-oriented agency on behalf of the American people. But the agency is failing its mission with unacceptably and increasingly slow case processing.

What Can I Do?

Communicate any concerns to your attorney about delays, and how they may affect employment, travel or other important issues.

I think the analogy in comparing immigration cases to a flight to a desired destination is still apt. The flight encounters more delays and more turbulence today than in years past. Everyone feels relieved when you finally land, but the delays and additional turbulence on the way can take a toll. There is no denying that how you get there matters, and some of the current delays and turbulence is creating a lot of anxiety.

