

Notifying the CIS of a Change of Address

Recently there has been a great deal of publicity on the consequences of failing to notify the CIS of a change in your address. Such discussions usually assert that the CIS threatens to arrest, deport, or pursue criminal prosecution for failure to provide updated address information within 10 days of moving. While the CIS asserts that there is no "crackdown" against those who fail to notify them of address changes, the law does require all foreign nationals (both non-immigrant and immigrant visa holders) to notify the government within 10 days of moving. See Section 265 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Whenever a foreign national enters the United States, she or he completes a Form I-94 (Arrival-Departure Record) for the Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS formerly known as the INS); a portion of the card is kept by the CIS for its records. The CIS requests that any changes in address after arrival in the U.S. be submitted via Form AR-11 to CIS headquarters in Washington, DC.

It is our understanding that a failure to file a change of address card within the required 10 day period will not, in and of itself, serve as sufficient reason for the initiation of deportation proceedings. Nonetheless, since it is very easy to obtain and complete the necessary form, we encourage all our clients to do so within 10 days of changing your address.

To obtain the current form and all pertinent instructions, go to the CIS' web site at:

<http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/ar-11.htm>

There you will find the appropriate form, in several different languages, and instructions on how to complete the form and the address to which you should mail the completed form.

In addition to sending the form to the Washington DC address, as noted in the instructions, it is suggest that you also send a copy of the form AR-11 to the CIS Service Center (Vermont, Nebraska, Texas, California) that services your geographic area of the United States as well, i.e. CIS Service Center where we filed the most recent prior CIS petition.

If your new address is in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, or Texas, mail a copy of this form to:

USINS TSC
P.O. Box 851804
Mesquite, TX 75185-1804

If your new address is in Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, or West Virginia, mail a copy of this form to:

Vermont Service Center
P.O. Box 9485
St. Albans, VT 05479-9485



1-800-437-7313

If your new address is in Arizona, California, Hawaii, or Nevada, mail a copy of this form to:

**California Service Center
P.O. Box 10485
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0485**

If your new address is elsewhere in the United States, or you have moved abroad, mail a copy of this form to:

**Nebraska Service Center
P.O. Box 87485
Lincoln, NE 68501-7485**

Please also send a copy of the filed AR-11 form to our office so that we are able to keep our records current.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.