

Immigration Hot Tip
By Bolanle Mayowa, Esq.

As an immigrant, not letting your legal status expire is one of the most important things you can do. If you are in the country legally, do not let your status expire. On occasion, when individuals with non-immigrant visa status wish to change to immigrant status and are faced with a lengthy process, which may take years at the least, they opt not to do anything. This leads to the non-immigrant visa expiring, which makes their presence in the country illegal, which may further bar them from re-entering the country for several years.

When seeking to change status, it is important to seek legal counsel. Immigration law can be very procedural and time consuming but it is an area where a procedural mistake or omission can have very damaging effects. In recent years, immigration laws have only gotten tougher and any chance of the legislature passing a bill that offers a path to citizenship for people who are out of status appears stalled to say the least.

Also of importance is the need, when you have an ongoing case with U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Service to check the status of your case. When you have legal representation, your attorney usually checks and keeps up to date with this but when you do not, it becomes more important to check for yourself and to make sure that USCIS has an up to date address and contact information for you. When USCIS needs more information or documents from individuals on a case, the request to produce the information may be time sensitive and when the request for information is sent to an address that is outdated, not getting the information how and when requested can be very detrimental to the case.

THE LAW OFFICES OF BOLANLE MAYOWA, P. C.
991 U. S. Highway 22 West
Suite 200
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
Phone: 908-864-8083
Fax: 908-864-2156