

Practical Implications of the Travel Ban for Entry of Immigrants from Nigeria, Burma, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan and Tanzania.

The expanded travel ban that was issued on January 31, 2020 which is scheduled to take effect on February 21, 2020 is a broad statement that has raised a lot of questions for Immigrants and Intending immigrants.

As of this morning at 9:30am, Monday February 2, 2020, USCIS and The State Dept are yet to issue guidelines on how it will be implemented. In the past after the initial confusion and chaos, the guideline has been that it was not applicable to people who already had approved visas and people who were already US residents but traveled temporarily out of the country. They also provided a means for people to individually apply for waivers on a case by case basis

The categories of people who may be affected are:

- Intending immigrants who are yet to file a Petition or Application
- People with approved Petitions but who have not filed adjustments of status or DS-260 applications
- People with approved DS-260 who have been issued visas but have not entered into the US as immigrants
- Intending immigrants who are physically in the United States and have filed applications to adjust status to permanent residents
- Intending immigrants who are physically in the United States who are yet to file applications to adjust status to permanent residents
- Immigrants who reside in the United States who are currently out of the United States

The initial implication is for anyone in the above category to take note of the effective date of the expanded travel ban. The next thing would be to get advice from an immigration attorney as to steps to take within the law regarding how the travel ban affects them.

The hope is the administration will release guidelines very soon on how they intend to implement the expanded travel ban. Even though organizations and different politicians have vowed to litigate regarding the travel ban, the practical implication right now is that it has immediate consequences for individuals and families and they need to get practical advice on how to navigate the system.