

SUSPENSION OF THE RE-REGISTRATION (NSEERS) PROCESS

The following is intended to guide our community through these uncertain times. Please review the important information below. If you are to report for a follow-up registration, please note that **effective December 2, 2003**, the US Department of Homeland Security has suspended the re-registration procedures. If you have any questions regarding this new regulation please consult an experienced attorney. The Law Office of **Akhlaghi & Associates** hope this brief article will aid you and your loved ones.

What is the new announcement?

On December 1, 2003, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) after much public out-cry and attention, decided to suspend the National Security Entry/Exit Registration System (NSEERS) re-registration requirement. Effective December 2, 2003 the DHS will publish in the Federal Register the new interim rule suspending the re-registration requirement mandating non-immigrant men and boys from specific countries, including Iran, to re-register with their local BCIS (formerly INS) offices. Those who recently entered the country no longer will be mandated to re-register after 30-days of such entry. Those who registered last year, through the Call-In Special Registrations, need not re-register annually.

What will happen with re-registration?

On December 1, 2003 at approximately 3:30 p.m. (PST) our office contacted the Office of Congressional Relations, US ICE (Immigration Customs Enforcement) to receive first hand accurate information on this new regulation and its enforcement. We were informed that in place of the previous program, the new rule would allow DHS, to notify individual non-immigrant visitors in writing to appear for a 'Directed Compliance Interview Process' at the discretion of DHS. Those notified will be contacted from the names gathered through the previous registration programs. This new process has not gone into effect yet. Nor does the DHS have a standard in place as to who will be selected for the 'Directed Compliance Interview Process.' "It is still being worked out," the official told us.

The new rule would also allow international students who are being monitored under Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) and who notify DHS of a change of address or change of educational institution through the SEVIS program, to act as an effective method of re-registration.

The new rule will **NOT** effect departure registration requirements. All those individuals who have registered must still comply with departure registration requirements at the airport upon departing the United States.

What will be the future of registration?

Starting in January 2004, the US-VISIT will go into effect. This program will take the place of the NSEERS requirements, as it will aim to register all visiting non-immigrant to the United States. Each alien will be required to be fingerprinted, photographed, and undergo a number of questions. The enforcement and effectiveness of this program has yet to be seen.

What happens now?

Stay informed and active. Know your rights and speak with an attorney. Organize community groups and more importantly those of you who can vote, VOTE! Together we can find a solution to help stop further targeting of our community.

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