

UAMS Immigration



Immigration Updates



I-539 Processing Delays Affects H-4 Applications

The Form I-539: Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status is filed to apply for a change of status to, or extension of status for H-4 dependents of H-1B employees. Currently, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is taking 9-15 months to process I-539s for a change of status or extension of stay for an H-4 dependent. This delayed processing time is also impacting H-4 Employment Authorization Document (EAD) applications and renewals. We recommend that you and your dependents plan appropriately for this delay. ***If have any questions, contact us at ASKImmigration@uams.edu.***

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Immigration Attorney Virtual Presentation

Wednesday, May 5, 2021, 2:00pm - 3:30pm

This seminar will discuss what changes and issues employers and foreign nationals can expect with respect to **employment-based permanent residency petitions**. It will also discuss lessons we learned from the Trump Administration when planning for petitions that may take several years to process; and what steps employers and foreign nationals can take to ensure a high probability of success. The seminar will cover the general process for common forms of sponsorship, including EB-1A Extraordinary Ability Petitioner, EB-1B Outstanding Professors and Researches, EB-2 National Interest Waivers, and PERM Labor Certification EB-2/EB-3 petitions.

Speaker: **GEORGE R. ERNST** has over a decade of experience as a business immigration attorney. His practice focuses include EB-1 and EB-2 visas for employment-based immigration, national interest waivers, H-1b and O-1 temporary work visas for STEM professionals, and individuals of extraordinary ability.

Registration is required. Please register [HERE](#).





TRAVEL

Due to U.S. embassy closures and travel restrictions, we strongly recommend you do not travel internationally unless there is an emergency. If you do need to travel, please contact our office for further advice. For more information about travelling during the pandemic, please check the [US Department of State website](#). Please also watch our [immigration attorney presentation about travel](#) for more advice regarding traveling.

NEW TAX DEADLINES

The deadlines for individuals to file and pay most federal income taxes are extended to May 17, 2021. For more details of the deadline extension, please check [HERE](#).

Given the deadline extension, Sprintax has decided to add additional dates to their free open tax webinar series. The dates and signing up links are as below.

- Wednesday, April 21st, 12pm EDT – [Register here](#)
- Thursday, April 29th, 12:30pm EDT – [Register here](#)
- Thursday, May 6th, 2pm EDT – [Register here](#)
- Thursday, May 13th, 12pm EDT – [Register here](#)

You can also refer to our [Immigration Insider Newsletter –January 2021](#) for the tax return basics.

APPLY FOR U.S. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

Due to the pandemic, the Little Rock Social Security Administration Office is open by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, you can call the local office at (866) 593-0933 or call the S.S.A. National toll free number **1-800-772-1213**. Please be aware that there might be delays in this process.

IMMIGRATION VIRTUAL OFFICE HOUR



Sign up for our virtual office hour if you have immigration-related inquiries, such as when to initiate your H-1B extension petition, what to do if your passport is expiring, or how to start a green card process. All conversations are private. Upcoming virtual office hours are April 9, April 20 and May 13. Make an appointment now at this link [HERE](#).

Immigration Spotlight

What is Form I-94?

When foreign visitors arrive in the United States as a nonimmigrant, the Customs Border Protection (CBP) officer examines their passports and visas, and enter visitors' arrival and visa information into the system at the port of entry. The information entered will generate a form called I-94. The I-94 indicates how long visitors are allowed to stay in the U.S. and proves that they arrived in the country with valid documentation. CBP officers will also put an admission stamp on visitors' passports upon their entry to the country.

Form I-94

The Form I-94 is issued by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to nonimmigrant visitors who are admitted to the U.S., adjusting status while in the U.S.; or extending their stay. Foreign nationals usually need a copy of their I-94 for verification of alien registration, immigration status or employment authorization.

In the past, Form I-94 was a paper card issued and attached to the nonimmigrant visitor's passport by CBP officers when entering the U.S. As of April 30, 2013, most arrival and/or departure records are created electronically at air and sea ports of entry. Form I-94 paper card is not issued at the port of entry but can be obtained through the [I-94 website](#). However, nonimmigrant visitors arriving by crossing a land border continue to receive the paper I-94 card.

The I-94 number is known as the Departure Number or Admission Record Number. On the form, you can also find the Admit Until Date which is the latest departure date allowed. Visitors must exit the U.S. on or before this date.

Electronic I-94

Paper card I-94



Admission stamp

Admission stamp

Upon entry of the U.S., visitors will be provided with a CBP admission stamp on their travel documents such as passports. Admission stamp contains date of admission, class of admission and admit until date. Although the admission stamp serves similar purpose and has similar information to I-94, it cannot be used to replace I-94.

Arrival/Departure Record

While an electronic Form I-94 contains more information than that of an admission stamp, both I-94 and admission stamp have the class of admission (visa type), entry date and admit until date. For visitors on F or J status, their admit until date should read "D/S" or "duration of status." This means they may remain in the U.S. until the program end dates on their Forms I-20, DS-2019 or OPT EAD card as long as they maintain an active status.

Arkansas Gems: Garvan Woodland Gardens



Located in the City of Hot Springs and one hour drive away from Little Rock, Garvan Woodland Gardens would be a wonderful place to welcome the spring season. This unique botanical garden features floral landscapes, waterfalls, and rocky inclines in a natural woodland setting surrounding the Ouachita Mountains. It is an example of The Natural State at its best.



In Garvan Woodland Gardens, you can enjoy a canopy of pines reaching skyward providing protection for delicate flora and fauna and gentle lapping waves that unfold along the 4 ½ miles of wooded shoreline. The Gardens' mission is to preserve and enhance a unique part of the Ouachita environment while providing people with a place of learning, research, cultural enrichment, and serenity. If you appreciate the beauty of nature, Garvan Woodland Garden will be a wonderful choice of a weekend getaway.

Check out the [Bloom Calendar](#) to see when your favorite flowers and plants bloom. Find out more about Garvan Woodland Gardens and plan your visit: [Garvan Woodland Gardens website](#).

Change of Address Reminder

Have you moved recently? Be sure to update your new address in both USCIS and UAMS databases.

USCIS: Fill out the [AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card](#).

UAMS: Login to [Employee Self Service \(ESS\)](#) ⇨ Personal Information ⇨ Personal Profile.

According to U.S. federal regulation 8 C.F.R. 265.1, all changes of address should be reported to USCIS within 10 days after moving. By updating the address in UAMS system, it can ensure that you receive important benefit and tax documentation from Office of Human Resources.

Upcoming Holidays

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Mother's Day

Monday, May 31, 2021

Memorial Day
(UAMS holiday)

Sunday, June 20, 2021

Father's Day

Upcoming Immigration Event

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Immigration Attorney Virtual Presentation

2:00—3:30 PM



UAMS
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Office of Immigration Services

4301 W. Markham St, Slot# 564
Shorey Building , 8th Floor,
Room S8/20B & C
Little Rock, AR 72205

Phone: 501-686-8132

Fax: 501-603-1317

E-mail: AskImmigration@uams.edu



[Immigration Services Website](#)