

Notes from Enrique Santos

As far as family based petitions go: Legal Permanent Residents (LPR) can only help to adjust their; spouse, unmarried children. However, when the child turns 21, he/she is placed on a waiting list that is approx 520 years long at this time. Few options exist for them to get LPR status sooner than that. If they want to help their children, it is recommended, if they are LPR's, to become US citizens ASAP. If they do this, they can file for citizenship of any unmarried child under 18, and the ones 18 but under 21, can take the citizenship exam. Only one parent has to naturalize in order to help their children this way.

Must remember the bars to reentry: Anyone who was in the US as of April 1, 1997, with out permission, and has left or left and came back, now has either a 3 year or 10 year bar, and can't adjust until they have served the time. This will probably have an impact on families who traveled during the cold months out of the US, and were waiting for their priority date.

Also, as of April 30, 2001. There is no more 245-I available. So, if you did not take advantage of it by then, you are out of luck now, even if you were to marry a US citizen now, you still have to leave the US to adjust status, and if you leave, you have the bars to reentry to deal with.

Lastly, do not let anyone fill out applications for you, unless the individual is either an immigration attorney or accredited rep.

These are the most important one that I can think of at this time.

Enrique Santos.