

Four things you should know about travel for your foreign employees

By Giselle Carson, Esq., Marks Gray, PA

Many foreign nationals travel abroad and renew their visas during the Holidays. This process is becoming more challenging, restrictive and time consuming. Here are answers to four FAQs that we often receive about this process.

What should the employee do to prepare for the interview?

- Be informed and thoroughly prepared for the expected and unexpected.
- Review the appointment notice and bring all required documents in a concise and organized fashion so the documents can be produced effortlessly. Documents should not be stapled.
- Bring clear and legible photocopies of all required documents and originals, if required.
- Do not submit oversized documents. All documents must be 8.5 x 11 inches.

What is the interview like?

The interview with the consular officer typically lasts five to ten minutes. But, the employee should block at least half a day for the whole interview process. The officer will ask the employee five to ten questions to verify information collected about the applicant. For an employment-based interview, questions might include:

- What will you be doing in the United States?
- How much will you be paid?
- Who is your employer?
- How long will you stay in the United States?
- Do you intend to immigrate permanently to the United States?

Short and concise answers are suggested. A successful interview should result in the approval of the visa.

What happens during the readmission process?

An immigration officer will interview the employee again to approve their admission to the U.S. A visa issuance is not a guarantee of an admission by the CBP officer.

What should the employee do after each readmission to the U.S.?

The employee should check their I-94 Arrival/ Departure Record every time he or she enters the United States to ensure they are admitted in the correct category and for the appropriate length of time. Checking the I-94 record is easy and can be done online. It only requires a few minutes and the employee's passport information. It can be done at <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>

There is a high rate of error on the admission records. It is important that the record is correct because the I-94 governs the lawful stay of the employee in the U.S., and not the passport, visa, or petition approval.

It is also important to plan for potential long waiting times and thorough questioning, including questions about recent travels, work and family.

The Marks Gray Immigration Team wishes you Happy Holidays and Travels!

Giselle Carson, Esq.

Shareholder

1200 Riverplace Boulevard
Suite 800
Jacksonville, Florida 32207
Tel: 904.398.0900
gcarson@marksgray.com

Click [here](#) for Giselle's bio.

