

D17 LEGAL BULLETIN

Advice for Guardians of the Last Frontier



Seventeenth District Legal Assistance
P.O. Box 195005
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 487-5474



COVID-19 Immigration

The Presidential Proclamation Suspending Immigration Following the COVID-19 Pandemic: What it Means for Service Members

On April 22, 2020, President Trump, mindful of the impact of foreign workers on the U.S. labor market, issued a Presidential Proclamation suspending entry of new immigrants into the United States, effective at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on April 23, 2020. In addition to preserving the U.S. labor market, the Proclamation recognized the need to preserve critical consular resources to address the needs of U.S. citizens abroad. Based on those U.S. interests, the Presidential Proclamation suspended the entry into the United States of certain new immigrants outside the United States on the date of the Proclamation. The Proclamation expires 60 days from its effective date unless continued of necessity.

Fortunately, this action will have no impact on service members or their families. Under Section 2 (b) (vii), the suspension does not apply to “any member of the United States Armed Forces and any spouse and children of a member of the United States Armed Forces.” In addition, the suspension does not apply to aliens already in the United States, to lawful permanent residents, or to spouses of U.S. citizens, among other exemptions.

For the full text of the proclamation, see here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspending-entry-immigrants-present-risk-u-s-labor-market-economic-recovery-following-covid-19-outbreak/>

If you might be affected by the suspension of immigration, to discuss whether the exceptions apply to you.

Legal Assistance is a free benefit available to active duty service members and their dependents and retirees and their dependents for all civil legal matters. Call the Legal Assistance office at (907) 487-5474 for an intake to start the process.

Need a D17 Legal Assistance Form? Visit our D17 Website at:
<https://www.pacificarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-17/Offices/Legal-office/Legal-assistance/>