

# GREEN CARD LOTTERY CONSULAR INTERVIEW



**USAFIS Organization eBook Series**

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# GREEN CARD LOTTERY CONSULAR INTERVIEW

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# DISCLAIMER

**Green Card Lottery Consular Interview** is an overview of what to bring and expect on the day of your interview with a U.S. consul after being selected in the Green Card Lottery. While it does not replace the expertise of immigration lawyers, it does provide the individual with the background of what is involved in the process. The information contained in this book should not be considered as legal advice.

Although the author and publisher believe the information in this book to be accurate on the date of its publication, the reader should be aware that immigration laws, regulations and procedures are constantly changing. It is up to the reader to make sure that the information is accurate and up to date. The author and publishers shall not be held liable for any damage suffered directly or indirectly due to the use of this book.

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## CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION

The most critical part of the Green Card Lottery post selection process is the interview with a consul at your local U.S. Embassy or Consulate. While the interview itself can take less than ten minutes, you can spend most of the morning waiting to be seen by the U.S. official. **Green Card Lottery Consular Interview** will provide a synopsis of what to expect the day of your interview as well as what documents to bring. While one cannot predict the exact questions a U.S. consul will ask, we can give you tips on how to answer questions properly.

In our previous book, *Green Card Lottery Consular Process*, it mentioned that a Green Card Lottery winner needed to complete the following U.S. government forms: DSP-122 and DS-230. Two photographs of the primary applicant plus each family member applying for a Green Card must be submitted along with these forms. All of these forms and photographs as well as the barcode sheet from the original winner notification letter had to be sent to the Kentucky Consular Center (KCC) in the United States.

Once the KCC completes its processing of your forms, it will send you a notification letter with a date for the interview. They will also forward the forms and photographs to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate where you are having the interview. However, the KCC interview notification letter will be sent only when the Green Card Lottery regional rank number, listed on the initial winning notification letter, is reached.

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## CHAPTER 2

# REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Below, you will find a list of the documents to bring with you to the interview. It is recommended that you place these documents in a folder. All documents not in English must be accompanied by certified English translations and one photocopy.

### Documentation Folder List

- KCC Interview Notification Letter
- Copy of the Original Winner Notification Letter
- Passport of each applicant
- Police Certification(s)
- Marriage Certification
- Evidence of Education or Work Experience
- Medical Exam Records (conducted by a doctor listed on the [Panel Physicians](#) in your country)
- Custody Records (if applicable)
- Divorce Certification (if applicable)
- Military Records (if applicable)
- Previous Deportation Documents (if applicable)
- Court Prison Records (if applicable)

Failure to complete the medical examination prior to the interview or bring the required documentation may delay the interview.

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## CHAPTER 3

# ARRIVING AT THE CONSULATE

It is important to arrive earlier than your scheduled interview appointment at the U.S. Consulate. Generally speaking, one should arrive 20 minutes prior to their appointment. Always count on considerable waiting times. Just because you get an appointment for 9am does not mean it will be your turn at 9am. Please bear in mind that other people have also been scheduled to come to the consulate and going through consulate entrance security checks takes time. Waiting is part of the process. It is recommended that you take the day off from work and do not schedule other important matters in your life on the day of your interview.

Electronic equipment such as iPods, MP3 players, PDAs, cell phones and tape recorders are not allowed in the U.S. Consulate. Also, smoking materials, bags, sprays, perfumes, liquids, backpacks, suitcases, drinking bottles, food, sealed envelopes and sealed packages are also prohibited to be brought in. Absolutely no weapons or sharp instruments are permitted to enter the consulate premises. **Only bring your interview documentation folder, unsealed, with you.**

People applying for the Green Card are the only individuals who may enter the consulate. You will need to present your original passport and appointment letter to the security guard outside the consulate. Afterward, you will be shown a designated line area to wait in until you are brought in for a security check.

## Security Check

As soon as you enter the consulate, you will go through a security check, which may include a full body metal detector scan. Afterwards, you will need to provide fingerprints for both hands. Usually, you will need to provide fingerprints for

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four fingers at a time by placing first your right palm and then your left palm on the fingerprinting device. Fingerprinting requirements can change over time and across consulates. Follow the instructions given to you by the staff at the desk.

## **Waiting Area**

After you have been fingerprinted, you will be directed to be seated in the waiting lounge area. It is important that you wait patiently until you're called for the interview. Keep your documents ready. When your name is announced, you will be asked to proceed to a particular window number. Walk towards the window, greet the interviewer with a smile and follow the instructions given to you by the interviewer.

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## CHAPTER 4

# THE INTERVIEW

The interview at the consulate is a simple process. The consul's questions are generally aimed at verifying eligibility while at the same time ensuring that no grounds of inadmissibility apply to the applicant. For example, it is at this point that the consul will examine whether you indeed have 12 years of school education or its equivalent; and/or two years of work experience prior to applying for the Green Card Lottery. The Consul may also question whether you have the financial means to support yourself in the U.S.

It is important to answer all questions truthfully. If you don't know an answer, say so. If you are not sure of the answer to a particular question, let the Consul know. Never make up answers! Any false statement or concealment of a material fact may result in your permanent exclusion from the U.S.

Do not try to engage in unnecessary conversation with the Consul. This might cause more questions and possibly some problems. Simply answer the questions you are being asked.

When first meeting the Consul, be courteous using a nice greeting such as "Good morning. How are you today?" Never get into an argument. You will be asked to raise your hand to take an oath saying everything is correct and there is no fraud. The consular officer will then tell you to sign the DS 230 Part II.

## Fee Payment

At your visa interview, you must pay the immigrant visa application and Green Card Lottery application fees (\$819), plus any other fees which remain due.

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**You should make arrangements to have the payment available before your interview date and time,** following the instructions of the U.S. embassy or consulate where you will be interviewed.

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## CHAPTER 5

# INTERVIEW RESCHEDULING

If you cannot attend the interview appointment that was scheduled for you by the KCC, you must schedule a new appointment through your local U.S. Consulate or Embassy. This is usually done by email. You will be notified of your new appointment by return e-mail.

To gain entrance to the consulate for your rescheduled interview, you must bring the email or letter stating the new time and date of the appointment. Without this notification and the \$819 Green Card Lottery application fee, you will be denied entry.

You must keep your second appointment even if you are lacking some required documentation such as your medical exam. At your interview, a consular officer will inform you in writing if you qualify for the Green Card through the Lottery subject to submission of a missing document. In such cases, a separate admission letter prepared by the consular officer will be given to you. You will be permitted entry to the Consulate on the designated day to submit the missing document(s) prior to the ending date of the current lottery, if sufficient visa numbers are still available.

Please note that there are a limited number of Green Cards available. Applicants who keep their original appointment are given first priority. Applicants with complete documentation for their rescheduled interview will be given second preference; all others will be considered as slots become available.

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## CHAPTER 6

# DON'T FORGET CITIZENSHIP

For the first time in U.S. history, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is launching a campaign to urge Green Card holders to become American citizens. Currently, there are 8 million Green Card holders who are eligible for American citizenship; many of them living in California, New York, Florida and Texas.

Immigration experts are welcoming the new government initiative. They stress the importance of Green Card holders to fully integrate into American society by involving themselves in the political process. Only a U.S. citizen can vote. USCIS plans to run the campaign for three years. It will cost \$11 million and include advertisements on radio, TV, print media as well as the Internet with messages in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and English. “We’re going to channel part of those funds to community organizations that help immigrants so they can help us to educate and convince people to become citizens,” USCIS spokesperson Mariana Gitomer said.

The campaign includes immigrant portraits of people born in China, Vietnam, Mexico, Dominican Republic and the Philippines who say they are “proud Americans”. They share their personal stories of starting a business, educating their families and even running for office. One can visit the [USCIS](#) website to learn more about the look and feel of the campaign.

Many Green Card holders feel that since they can legally live and work in the USA, there is no need to apply for citizenship. However, USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas remarked that “citizenship is the common thread that connects us all

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as Americans. This initiative emphasizes the importance of citizenship—not only to immigrants and their families but also to our nation as a whole.”

Green Card holders living in the U.S. for 5 years, showing good moral character as well as passing English and civics tests can apply for citizenship. Gitomer added that “citizenship gives them the benefit of voting, obtaining an American passport to travel without restrictions and obtain better jobs.” Other citizenship benefits include serving on a federal jury, petitioning for family members to immigrate to the U.S., running for elected office as well as being eligible for federal jobs, grants and scholarships.

Never lose the vision of becoming an America citizen. Going through the quickest route (Green Card Lottery) to legally live and work in the United States is just the beginning for a new life with huge opportunities. The vision should be living the American Dream as an American citizen. As one of the greatest broadcast journalists in U.S. history, Edward R. Murrow, said, “Good night and good luck”.