

## DO I NEED TO BE A CITIZEN TO IMMIGRATE MY FAMILY?

By  
Allice Marguerite Yardum  
© 1985

The visa office of the United States Department of State predicted in January 1985 that the Second preference classification of immigrants which is backlogged to applications submitted in the spring of 1984 will stay about as oversubscribed as it is right now. This is because the quota will be fulfilled before the time allocated for Second preference numbers passes this fiscal year. Second preference aliens are spouses and unmarried sons and daughters of permanent residents. At the rate we are at today, it may take one and one half years processing time for resident aliens to be reunited with their close family. That is a long time to wait, but many Asian countries and Mexico have a wait that is much longer. There is an alternative. A permanent resident alien may become a citizen of the United States which would result in his or her family members abroad being classified under a more advantageous visa classification.

Presuming that an alien qualifies for citizenship today, he or she could apply now and become a citizen in a few months time. Note that the processing time of petitions for naturalization varies a few months depending upon where and when the petition is filed.

Once our Middle Easterner becomes an American, a petition for the alien spouse or children can be filed immediately. Spouses and minor children of American citizens are considered immediate relatives and are not limited by quota.

The waiting is eliminated and the only time involved has to do with processing the paperwork which should be no more than a few months. Unmarried adult children of American citizens are First preference aliens. They are limited by quota, however presently there are enough visas to go around so such aliens also currently qualify to become permanent residents without waiting in the same way as immediate relatives.

Married children of American citizens are Fourth preference aliens and this category is also current. Petitions submitted today are being considered for permanent residence. This scenario does not suggest that you should not become a citizen if your child is married. Married children of permanent residents are not eligible to immigrate under any classification.

The point is that if your spouse and children are not with you in the United States and you wish to immigrate them, it may be faster to do it if you are a citizen rather than a perman-

المحاميه آليس يارد  
لخدمة الأقارب العرب في أيجاز  
عاملات الهجرة

ALICE MARGUERITE YARDUM

ATTORNEY AT LAW

555 West Beech Street, Suite 400

San Diego, California 92101

(619) 234-1820

PIERRE PFEFFER

Attorney

المحامي

متخصص في امور وقضايا  
الطلاق، السياقة في ماله  
السر وتناول المخدرات و  
جرائم السياقة بأنواعه.

- كستامين  
- لحوادث والاصابات  
- لمشاكل العائليه  
- كالجوارف

Law Offices of

PIERRE PFEFFER A.P.C.  
PAUL TURNER

1146 Union Street, Suite 1

San Diego, CA 92101

(619) 234-7251

LAW OFFICES OF

CHAYE SHAHALAYI  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

SAN JOSE OFFICE

510 NORTH FIRST

SUITE 203

SAN JOSE, CA

95112

(408) 298-6110

MAIN OFFICE

THE BRADBURY BUILDING

304 SO. BROADWAY, STE. 510

LOS ANGELES, CA 90013

(213) 617-8334

SAN DIEGO OFFICE

4310 EUCLID AVENUE

SAN DIEGO, CA 92115

(619) 563-1164

SAY YOU SAW IT IN MIDDLE EASTERN WORLD.