

necessary for the effective administration of the immigration laws. Extraordinary circumstances shall not be found upon the basis of convenience or financial burden to the alien, the alien's relative, or the alien's employer.

(2) Nationality—For purposes of paragraph (b) of this section, a stateless person shall be considered to be a national of the country which issued the alien's travel document.

(e) *Regular visa defined.* "Regular visa" means a nonimmigrant visa of any classification which does not bear the title "Diplomatic" or "Official." A nonimmigrant visa is issued as a regular visa unless the alien falls within one of the classes entitled to a diplomatic or an official visa as described in § 41.26(c) or § 41.27(c).

[52 FR 42597, Nov. 5, 1987; 53 FR 9112, Mar. 21, 1988, as amended at 61 FR 1522, Jan. 22, 1996; 61 FR 53058, Oct. 10, 1996; 61 FR 56439, Nov. 1, 1996; 63 FR 671, Jan. 7, 1998; 63 FR 36366, July 6, 1998]

§ 41.102 Personal appearance of applicant.

(a) *Personal appearance required or waived.* Except as otherwise provided in this section, every alien seeking a nonimmigrant visa is required to apply in person before a consular officer. The requirement of personal appearance may be waived by the consular officer in the case of any alien who is:

- (1) A child under 14 years of age;
- (2) Within a class of nonimmigrants classifiable under the visa symbols A, C-2, C-3, G, or NATO;
- (3) An applicant for a diplomatic or official visa;
- (4) Within a class of nonimmigrants classifiable under the visa symbols B, C-1, H-1, or I;
- (5) Within a class of nonimmigrants classifiable under the visa symbol J-1 who qualifies as a leader in a field of specialized knowledge or skill and also is the recipient of a U.S. Government grant, and such an alien's spouse and children qualifying for J-2 classification;
- (6) An aircraft crewman, applying for a nonimmigrant visa under the provisions of INA 101(a)(15)(D), if the application is supported by a letter from the employing carrier certifying that the

applicant is employed as an aircraft crewman, and the consular officer is satisfied that the personal appearance of the alien is not necessary to determine visa eligibility; or

(7) A nonimmigrant in any category, provided the consular officer determines that a waiver of personal appearance in the individual case is warranted in the national interest or because of unusual circumstances, including hardship to the visa applicant.

(b) *Interview by consular officer.* Except when the requirement of personal appearance has been waived by the consular officer pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, each applicant for a nonimmigrant visa must be interviewed by a consular officer, who shall determine on the basis of the applicant's representations and the visa application and other relevant documentation (1) the proper nonimmigrant classification, if any, of the alien and (2) the alien's eligibility to receive a visa.

[52 FR 42597, Nov. 5, 1987; 53 FR 9112, Mar. 21, 1988]

§ 41.103 Filing an application and Form OF-156.

(a) *Filing an application—*(1) *Filing of application on Form OF-156 required unless waived.* The consular officer may waive submission of an application, under paragraph (a)(3) of this section, for certain aliens for whom personal appearance has been waived under § 41.102. Except for persons for whom such waivers have been granted, every alien seeking a nonimmigrant visa must make application therefor on Form OF-156, Nonimmigrant Visa Application, unless a prior Form OF-156 is readily available at the consular office which can be appropriately amended to bring the application up to date.

(2) *Filing of Form OF-156 by alien under 16 or physically incapable.* The application for an alien under 16 years of age or one physically incapable of completing an application may be completed and executed by the alien's parent or guardian, or, if the alien has no parent or guardian, by any person having legal custody of, or a legitimate interest in, the alien.

(3) *Waiver of filing of application.* (i) When personal appearance is waived

under §41.102(a)(2) or (3) the consular officer may also waive the filing of a visa application.

(ii) When personal appearance is waived under §41.102(a)(7), the consular officer may also waive the filing of a visa application in cases of hardship, emergency, or national interest.

(iii) Even if personal appearance is waived pursuant to any other subparagraph of §41.102(a), the requirement for filing an application may not be waived.

(b) *Application form*—(1) *Preparation of Form OF-156, Nonimmigrant Visa Application.* (i) The consular officer shall ensure that Form OF-156 is fully and properly completed in accordance with the applicable regulations and instructions.

(ii) If the filing of a visa application is waived by the consular officer, the officer shall prepare a Form OF-156 on behalf of the applicant, using the data available in the passport or other documents which have been submitted.

(2) *Additional information as part of application.* The consular officer may require the submission of additional necessary information or question an alien on any relevant matter whenever the consular officer believes that the information provided in Form OF-156 is inadequate to permit a determination of the alien's eligibility to receive a nonimmigrant visa. Additional statements made by the alien become a part of the visa application. All documents required by the consular officer under the authority of §41.105(a) are considered papers submitted with the alien's application within the meaning of INA 221(g)(1).

(3) *Signature.* When personal appearance is required, Form OF-156 shall be signed and verified by, or on behalf of, the applicant in the presence of the consular officer. If personal appearance is waived, but the submission of an application form by the alien is not waived, the form shall be signed by the applicant. If the filing of an application form is also waived, the consular officer shall indicate that the application has been waived on the Form OF-156 prepared on behalf of the applicant, as provided in paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section. The consular officer, in every instance, shall initial the Form

OF-156 over or adjacent to the officer's name and title stamp.

(4) *Registration.* Form OF-156, when duly executed, constitutes the alien's registration record for the purposes of INA 221(b).

§41.104 Passport requirements.

(a) *Passports defined.* "Passport" as defined in INA 101(a)(30) is not limited to a national passport or to a single document. A passport may consist of two or more documents which, when considered together, fulfill the requirements of a passport, provided that the documentary evidence of permission to enter a foreign country has been issued by a competent authority and clearly meets the requirements of INA 101(a)(30).

(b) *Passport requirement.* Except for certain persons in the A, C-3, G, and NATO classifications and persons for whom the passport requirement has been waived pursuant to the provisions of INA 212(d)(4), every applicant for a nonimmigrant visa is required to present a passport, as defined above and in INA 101(a)(30), which is valid for the period required by INA 212(a)(7)(B)(i)(I).

(c) *A single passport including more than one person.* The passport requirement for a nonimmigrant visa may be met by the presentation of a passport including more than one person, if such inclusion is authorized under the laws or regulations of the issuing authority and if a photograph of each visa applicant 16 years of age or over has been attached to the passport by the issuing authority.

(d) *Applicants for diplomatic visas.* Every applicant for a diplomatic visa must present a diplomatic passport, or the equivalent thereof, having the period of validity required by INA 212(a)(7)(B)(i)(I), unless such requirement has been waived pursuant to the authority contained in INA 212(d)(4) or unless the case falls within the provisions of §41.21(b).

[52 FR 42597, Nov. 5, 1987, as amended at 56 FR 30428, July 2, 1991; 61 FR 1522, Jan. 22, 1996; 61 FR 53058, Oct. 10, 1996]