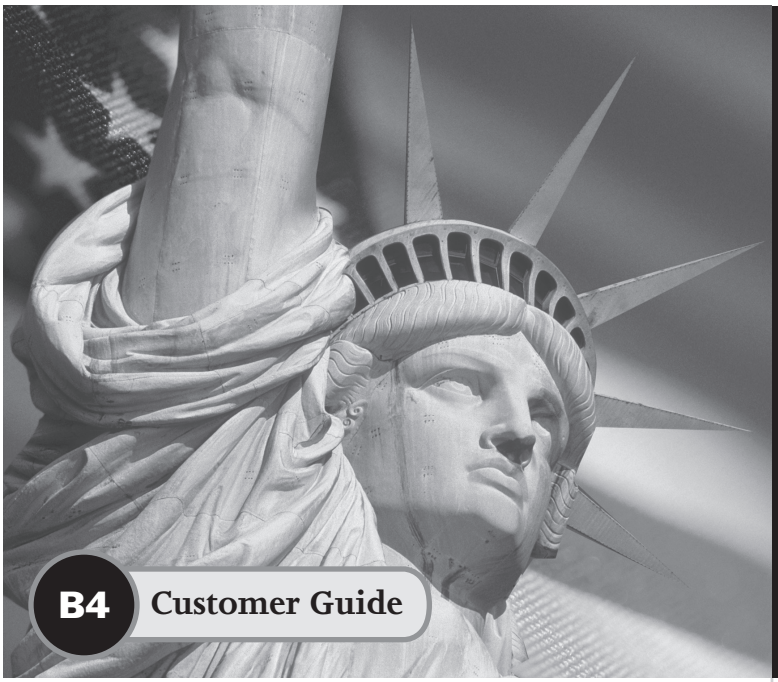

I Am a Permanent Resident

How Do I...
Know What My Responsibilities Are?

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

M-607 (August 2008)

Everyone in the United States must abide by U.S. law, including Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Permanent residents who fail to abide by the laws of the United States may have their status taken away through removal proceedings. This customer guide contains some important information that may help you protect and maintain your permanent resident status.

File Tax Returns

If you are a permanent resident and intend to maintain permanent resident status, you should file a Federal tax return with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and any applicable State, city, and local tax returns when required to do so. Under immigration law, a permanent resident who is required to file a tax return as a resident and fails to do so, or who files a nonresident alien tax form, may be considered to have abandoned his or her status and may lose permanent resident status. Please visit the IRS website at **www.irs.gov** for more information about taxes and tax returns.

Get a Social Security Number

Be sure to get your Social Security card. A Social Security Number is usually necessary for taxes and employment purposes. Please visit the Social Security Administration's website at **www.socialsecurity.gov** for more information about Social Security numbers and cards.

Register With the Selective Service

If you are a male between the ages of 18 and 26, be sure to register with the Selective Service. Please visit the Selective Service website for more information at **www.sss.gov**.

Keep Your Permanent Resident Card Up to Date

Be sure to file to renew your Permanent Resident Card before it expires. For more information about renewing your Permanent Resident Card, please see customer guide **B2**, *I Am a Permanent Resident...How Do I...Renew or Replace My Permanent Resident Card?*, or visit our website.

Traveling Outside of the United States

Permanent residence normally permits you to travel outside the United States and to return; however, there are some limitations. Lengthy absences, particularly if they involve work or taking up residence abroad, can lead to abandonment and loss of permanent residence status, or delayed eligibility for naturalization. Absence for 1 year or more can cause serious problems. Remember that, in order to enter another country, you must comply with that country's requirements, which may include having your U.S. Permanent Resident Card, obtaining a visa, or using your passport from your country of nationality.

You may be able to reduce the risk of abandonment by filing for a "reentry permit," using **Form I-131**, *Application for Travel Document*, before you depart. Additional information on reentry permits is available in customer guide **B5**, *I Am a Permanent Resident...How Do I...Get a Reentry Permit?*

Under limited circumstances, you may be able to protect your eligibility for naturalization by filing **Form N-470**, *Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization Purposes*, before you depart.

Criminal convictions can trigger special grounds that make you inadmissible, preventing you from being re-admitted to the United States after international travel.

Where can I find information about life in the United States, including information about my other rights and responsibilities as a permanent resident?

To help you learn about your new responsibilities, rights, and privileges, we have created a manual, **M-618**, *Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants*. It contains basic information to help you settle in the United States and find what you and your family need for everyday life. It also summarizes important information about your legal status and about agencies and organizations that provide documents or essential services you may need. You can download *Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants* from our website at **www.uscis.gov**. The guide is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Korean, Russian, Arabic, French, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole.

Key Information

Key USCIS forms referenced in this guide	Form #
Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants	M-618
Application for Travel Document	I-131
Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization Purposes	N-470

USCIS

- **On the Internet at: www.uscis.gov**

For more copies of this guide, or information about other citizenship and immigration services, please visit our website. You can also download forms, e-file some applications, check the status of an application, and more. It's a great place to start!

If you don't have Internet access at home or work, try your local library. If you cannot find what you need, please call Customer Service.

- **Customer Service: 1-800-375-5283**
- Hearing Impaired TDD Customer Service: 1-800-767-1833

Other U.S. Government Services–Click or Call		
General Information	www.usagov.gov	1-800-333-4636
New Immigrants	www.welcometoUSA.gov	
U.S. Dept. of State	www.state.gov	1-202-647-6575
U.S. Social Security	www.ssa.gov	1-800-772-1213
U.S. Selective Service	www.sss.gov	1-847-688-6888
U.S. Internal Revenue Service	www.irs.gov	1-800-829-1040

Disclaimer: This guide provides basic information to help you become generally familiar with our rules and procedures. For more information, or the law and regulations, please visit our website. Immigration law can be complex, and it is impossible to describe every aspect of every process. You may wish to be represented by a licensed attorney or by a nonprofit agency accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals.