

# Immigration Acronyms

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## **A**

AAO - Administrative Appeals Office

AC21 - American Competitiveness in the 21st Century Act

ALC - Alien Labor Certification

AO - Asylum Office or Asylum Officer

AOR - Attorney of Record

AOS - Adjustment of Status or Affidavit of Support

AP - Advanced Parole

ASC - Application Support center. ASC offers biometric services including fingerprinting services.

## **B**

BALCA - Board of Alien Labor Certification Appeals

BEC - Backlog Elimination Center

BIA - Board of Immigration Appeals

BP - Border Patrol

## **C**

CAT - (United Nations) Convention Against Torture

CBP - Customs and Border Protection

CCA - Child Citizenship Act

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations

CIJ - Chief Immigration Judge

CIMT - Crime Involving Moral Turpitude (aka CMT)

CIR - Comprehensive Immigration Reform

CIS - Citizenship and Immigration Services (aka USCIS)

CO - Certifying Officer, Consular Officer

COE - Change of Employer

COR - Cancellation of Removal

COS - Change of Status

CR - Conditional Resident

CRCL - Civil Rights/Civil Liberties

CRS - Congressional Research Service

C/S - Change of Status

CSC - California Service Center

CSPA - Child Status Protection Act or Chinese Student Protection Act

## **D**

DAO - District Adjudication Officer

DD - District Director

DED - Deferred Enforced Departure

DHS - Department of Homeland Security

DOE - Date of Entry

DMV - Department of Motor Vehicles

DOJ - Department of Justice

DOL - Department of Labor

DOS - Department of State

DOT - Dictionary of Occupational Titles

DRO - Detention and Removal Operations

D/S - Duration of Status

DSO - Designated School Official

DV - Diversity Lottery

## **E**

EAD - Employment Authorization Document

EOIR - Executive Office for Immigration Review

EOS - Extension of Stay (aka E/S)

ERO - Enforcement and Removal Operations

ESTA - Electronic System for Travel Authorization

ETA - Employment and Training Administration

EWI - Entry Without Inspection

## **F**

FAM - Foreign Affairs Manual

FOIA - Freedom of Information Act

FGM-Female Genital Mutilation

FMG - Foreign Medical Graduate

FN - Foreign National

FR - Federal Register

FTA - Free Trade Agreement

## **G**

GAL - General Administration Letter of DOL

GAO - United States General Accounting Office

GC - Green Card

GPO - Government Printing Office

## H

HHS - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

HRIFA - Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act

## I

ICE - Immigration and Customs Enforcement

IFM - Inspector's Field Manual

IG - Inspector General

IIRAIRA - Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996

IIO - Immigration Information Officer

IJ - Immigration Judge

IMBRA - International Marriage Broker's Act

IMFA - Immigration Marriage Fraud Amendments Act

IMMACT90 - Immigration Act of 1990

INA - Immigration & Nationality Act

INS - Immigration and Naturalization Service (Abolished in 2003; INS functions were divided between CBP, ICE and CIS)

IRCA - Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986

IV - Immigrant Visa

**J****K****L**

LC - Labor Certification

LCA - Labor Condition Application

LIFE - Legal Immigration and Family Equity Act of 2000

LIN - Nebraska Service Center

LPR - Lawful Permanent Resident

**M**

MRD - Machine Readable Document

MSC - Missouri Service Center (National Benefits Center)

MTR - Motion to Reopen

MVA - Motor Vehicle Administration

**N**

NACARA - Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act

NAFTA - North American Free Trade Agreement

NAICS - North American Industry Classification System

NATZ - Naturalization

NBC - National Benefit Center

NBCOT - National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapists

NIV - Nonimmigrant Visa

NOA - Notice of Action

NOI - Notice of Inspection

NOID - Notice of Intent to Deny

NOIR - Notice of Intent to Revoke

NRC - National Records Center

NSC - Nebraska Service Center

NSEERS - National Security Entry-Exit Registration System

NTA - Notice to Appear

NVC - National Visa Center

## **O**

OCAHO - Office of the Chief Administrative Hearing Officer

OES - Occupational Employment Statistics

OIC - Officer In Charge

OMB - Office of Management and Budget

O\*NET - Occupational Information Network

OOH - Occupational Outlook Handbook

OPLA - Office of Principal Legal Advisor (part of ICE)

OPT - Optional Practical Training

ORR - Office of Refugee Resettlement (part of HHS)

O/S - Out of Status

OSC - Order to Show Cause (replaced by NTA, Notice to Appear)

## **P**

PCC - Police Clearance Certificate

PD - Priority Date

PERM - Program Electronic Review Management

PIMS - Petition Information Management System

PLC - Permanent Labor Certification

POE - Port of Entry

PP - Premium Processing

PPU - Premium Processing Unit

PR - Permanent Residence

PT - Practical Training

## **Q**

QDE - Qualified Designated Entity

## **R**

RAIO - Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate

RFE - Request for Evidence

RIR - Reduction In Recruitment

RN - Registered Nurse

RSC - Regional Service Center

RTD - Refugee Travel Document

## **S**

SCOPS - Service Center Operations (part of USCIS)

SENTRI - Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection

SEVIS - Student and Exchange Visitor Information System



SEVP - Student and Exchange Visitor Program

SIJ - Special Immigrant Juveniles

SR - Senate Report

SRC - Southern Regional Center (now Texas Service Center)

SSA - Social Security Administration

SSN - Social Security Number

SWA - State Workforce Agency

## **T**

TCN - Third Country National

TN - Trade NAFTA

TPS - Temporary Protected Status

TSA - Transportation Security Administration

TSC - Texas Service Center

TVPRA - Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act

TWOV - Transit Without Visa

## **U**

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UPIL - Unauthorized Practice of Immigration Law

UPL - Unauthorized Practice of Law

USC - United States Citizen

USCIS - United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

## **V**

VAWA - Violence Against Women Act

VD - Voluntary Departure

VIOPP - Visa In Other Passport (notation sometimes used on entry stamps)

VOLAG - Volunteer Agency

VSC - Vermont Service Center

VWPP - Visa Waiver Pilot Program (aka VWP Visa Waiver Program)

## **W**

WAC - Western Adjudication Center (now California Service Center)

WHTI - Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative

## **X**

## **Y**

## **Z**

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