



DESCRIPTION OF RAIS IMMIGRATION SERVICES

The Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) provides competent, efficient fundamental Immigration Services for a no fee. The program was developed to support three groups of clients:

1. Clients who are Refugees, Political Asylees, Cuban/ Haitian entrants or Victims of Trafficking eligible for refugee resettlement services through the Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS).
2. Immigrants or refugees who face a termination of benefits due to their immigration status. The most common example of this are seniors who are receiving SSI benefits and who will lose these benefits if they do not become US citizens after 7 years of receipt of benefits.
3. Immigrants or refugees who require other basic immigration assistance and reside in the communities RAIS serves (Anchorage, Delta Junction and the Matanuska-Susitna Valley). RAIS is especially focused on services that promote family reunification. Generally clients outside the communities RAIS services will not be eligible for assistance in less they wish to come to a RAIS office located in one of those areas.

Clients generally need five types of immigration assistance: 1. LPR Application; 2. Naturalization Application; 3. Work Permits; 4. Travel Documents and 5. Family Based Petitions. RAIS provides consultations in order to screen clients for our services and to direct clients to legal services that are not provided by CSS.

The program employs BIA accredited representatives and uses the services of CLINIC (Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc.) for consultations. Non-BIA accredited Immigration Counselors work under the supervision of the BIA accredited staff completing intakes and obtaining the necessary information for the completion of documents. All applications submitted to USCIS are prepared by BIA accredited staff and are reviewed by one other staff before being mailed. All consultations are provided only by the BIA accredited representatives.

The program aims to provide high quality competent representation. Trainings from CLINIC are attended yearly by program staff. In addition staff receives the CLINIC list serve and the program maintains a legal library of resources. Training to move additional staff towards BIA accreditation is ongoing.

The program aims to provide efficient service. The program's standard is to have all applications prepared for submittal to USCIS within 15 business days of opening a case. Cases are not accepted by the program if there is a backlog that would jeopardize this standard. All mail received regarding client's active applications is responded to within 2 business days.



Consultations are provided to clients for no fee. Referrals are made to Immigration Attorneys for all activities that fall outside the scope of RAIS expertise and/or when RAIS is not available due to backlog.