

POSSIBLE CHANGES IN IMMIGRATION LAW

Following the November 2016 election, immigration laws and regulations may change. If they do, Irish Immigration Centers across the US are committed to answering questions from concerned individuals. But please remember the incoming Administration can make no changes to immigration policy until January 20th, 2017 at the earliest.

Here are some things immigrants should keep in mind:

1. Apply for citizenship! If you are a lawful permanent resident and eligible for naturalization, we encourage you to apply for citizenship. If you have pending relative petitions, check with your legal adviser. Note the fees for most USCIS immigration and citizenship benefits increase Dec. 23.
2. Beware of immigration scams. Get information and assistance from a qualified immigration legal service provider. For more information on protecting yourself and your loved ones, visit uscis.gov/avoidscams.
3. Get screened. You may be eligible for immigration relief. Start with a free online screening tool. This is available, along with legal information and referrals to nonprofit legal services organizations, at www.immi.org.

While these potential changes to immigration laws are unsettling, do not make rash decisions. Please talk to someone with immigration expertise. Contact Seattle's Irish Immigrant Support Group at IISG@irishclub.org for suggestions.