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August 18, 2021

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## Welcome to the T&R Newsletter

August 2021

Extension of validity for Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record (Form I-693) and information about our upcoming monthly webinar. Read our August newsletter to stay current on all immigration related matters and join us this Friday for the T&R monthly webinar.

### **USCIS Extends Validity of Medical (Form I-693) Due to COVID-19 Related Processing Delays**

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on August 12, 2021, and effective immediately, that the validity period of Form I-693 (Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record) is extended from two to four years. The USCIS notes that a completed Form I-693 may be considered valid if:

- The Form I-693, if filed with the Form I-485, [Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#), has a civil surgeon signature dated no more than 60 days before the I-485 filing date,
- The civil surgeon's signature is less than four years old at the time of adjudication, and
- A decision on the applicant's Form I-485 is reached on or before September 30, 2021.

**BACKGROUND:** Applicants can file, but are not required to file, a Form I-693 at the same time they file Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status. However, USCIS advises applicants for adjustment of status to file their Form I-693 together with their Form I-485 to eliminate the need for a Request for Evidence (RFE) to be issued, thus avoiding additional adjudication delays.

**WHY THE CHANGE?** With the extension of the validity of the Form I-693 from two to four years, applicants who obtained their medical examination several years ago and filed it with their Form I-485 may not be required to obtain a new medical examination prior to I-485 application approval.

**WHAT SHOULD OCTOBER 2020 APPLICANTS TO ADJUST STATUS DO?** Applicants to adjust status who filed a Form I-485 in October 2020 without a medical should have a medical completed in anticipation of getting the request for evidence (RFE) requesting the medical so that applicants are able to submit the response to the RFE as quickly as possible to get an adjudication before the end of September 2021. Applicants can visit the [USCIS Find a Doctor webpage](#) to find a USCIS-designated physician.

**THE USCIS INDICATES THAT IT IS ON RECORD PACE TO ADJUDICATE EMPLOYMENT BASED ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS CASES:** The USCIS is prioritizing employment-based adjustment of status cases to increase the speed of adjudication and decrease the number of green cards that go unused. Immigrant visa numbers that are not used by the end of the government fiscal year (September 30, 2021) will be lost. The agency is on pace to approve more employment-based adjustment of status cases than it has since fiscal year 2005.

### **TROW & RAHAL WEBINARS – THIRD FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH**

Please join Trow & Rahal's monthly webinar from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Eastern on the third Friday (usually) of each month. The format of these webinars will include a brief update of any changes in immigration policies, as well as an overview of one important immigration issue or visa category. Upcoming webinars include:

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