



Protect Yourself from Immigration Consultant Fraud!

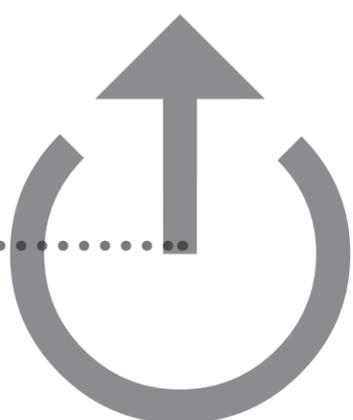
What is Immigration Consultant Fraud?

Immigration consultant fraud occurs when an individual promises to help procure an immigration benefit for an individual, family or business and then fails to provide the promised service. These individuals may call themselves “notarios,” “notario publicos,” “visa consultants,” “immigration consultants,” “licenciados,” and other terms in other languages. They take advantage of undocumented aliens, U.S. business owners, legal permanent residents, and U.S. citizens. They usually require money for their services but are not authorized to give legal advice about immigration law.

How Can I Protect Myself from Immigration Consultant Fraud?

Hire only a licensed attorney or a representative authorized by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to give you immigration advice and follow these basic precautions:

- Ask how much it will cost for a consultation.
- Verify an attorney’s or accredited representative’s eligibility to represent you.
- Ask what the process is, how long it will take, and what the risks are.
- Ask how you pay. A monthly maintenance fee is a sign of immigration fraud.
- Require a written contract of representation and review it carefully.
- Get a receipt when you make a payment.
- Receive copies of all documents prepared or submitted for you.
- Do not sign papers that are blank or that have not been filled out.
- Do not sign documents that you not understand.
- Do not sign documents that contain false statements or inaccurate information.
- Report any unlawful activity that may be the unauthorized practice of law by contacting the Virginia State Bar’s Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee:



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