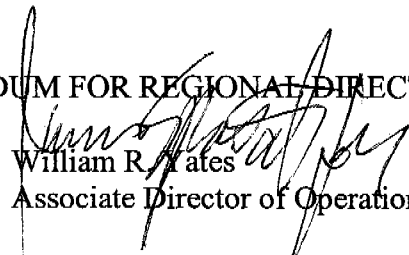


U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Citizenship and Immigration Services

Office of Associate Director of Operations

425 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20536
OCT 8 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR REGIONAL DIRECTORS

FROM: 
William R. Yates
Associate Director of Operations

SUBJECT: Centralization of Interim Relief For U Nonimmigrant Status Applicants

The attached memorandum establishes the Vermont Service Center (VSC) as the centralized location for processing requests for interim relief for applicants for U nonimmigrant status. Regulations implementing this new nonimmigrant status (created by the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (VTVPA)) are currently in the clearance process. In an effort to provide interim relief for aliens eligible for U nonimmigrant status, guidance was issued in August 2001, instructing field offices not to remove anyone from the United States who appeared to be eligible to apply for U nonimmigrant status until he/she has had the opportunity to avail him/herself of the provisions of the VTVPA. It further instructed field offices to use existing mechanisms (parole, deferred action, and stays of removal) to achieve this objective.

Since that guidance was issued, it has become apparent that until the regulations implementing the U nonimmigrant status are published, a more consistent, centralized approach is needed in the interim relief process. Therefore, the U nonimmigrant status interim relief process will be centralized at the VSC effective immediately. All service centers and field offices should forward all early-filed requests for interim relief for U nonimmigrant status to:

USCIS – Vermont Service Center
Attn: VAWA Unit, Box 1000
75 Lower Welden Street
St. Albans, VT 05479-0001

All early-filed requests should be clearly marked in large letters: **DO NOT OPEN IN THE MAILROOM.**

Please ensure that appropriate personnel in your unit are aware of this change. If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Laura Dawkins, Office of Program and Regulation Development, by electronic mail.

Attachment