



## **IMMIGRATION ALERT**

### **Visa Stamping: When Can I Get an Interview Appointment and How Long Until I Get My Passport Back?**

As a result of enhanced security procedures in place following 9/11, most applicants for nonimmigrant visas are required to attend a personal interview at a consular post. The personal interview requirement has complicated the visa application process, as applicants must arrange their travel to accommodate appointment lead times (which at some consular posts can take weeks or even months) and the time that it takes for return of the passport containing the visa.

The State Department now provides information on waiting times for interview appointments and on approximate passport return times for nonimmigrant visas at individual consular posts. To view estimated waiting times for each post, go to: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors\\_wait.php](http://travel.state.gov/visa/tempvisitors_wait.php).



Note that some visa applications may require additional special clearances or administrative processing, in which case there will be additional delay. Applicants generally are advised at the time of application if additional clearances are required.

Seyfarth Shaw's Business Immigration Group provides periodic information alerts about noteworthy developments in the business immigration field. The information that we provide is of a general nature and should not be interpreted as legal advice applicable to a specific factual situation. If you have questions about the information contained in this Immigration Alert or would like to know more about Seyfarth Shaw's Business Immigration Group and our inbound and outbound visa processing capabilities, please visit our website, [www.immstar.com](http://www.immstar.com), or contact one of the Business Immigration Group Partners: Jim King ([jking@seyfarth.com](mailto:jking@seyfarth.com)) in Atlanta; Russell Swapp ([rswapp@seyfarth.com](mailto:rswapp@seyfarth.com)) or Dyann DeVecchio ([ddelvecchio@seyfarth.com](mailto:ddelvecchio@seyfarth.com)) in Boston; Ric Fischer ([Ffischer@seyfarth.com](mailto:Ffischer@seyfarth.com)) in Chicago; or Cris Weals ([cweals@dc.seyfarth.com](mailto:cweals@dc.seyfarth.com)) in DC. If you would like to receive our Immigration Alerts, please contact Sarah Compton via e-mail at [scompton@seyfarth.com](mailto:scompton@seyfarth.com). Thank you.



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