



IMMIGRATION ALERT

Chinese Visa Information/Appointment Call Center Closed

On April 23, 2004, Chinese authorities shut down the U.S. visa information center. The foreign ministry in Beijing stated that after complaints from Chinese citizens, the call center was closed for overcharging customers. The center had been open for less than two months and was the only means by which to schedule appointments for visa interviews.



Appointments that had been scheduled prior to the closure of the call center will continue to be honored. Currently in Beijing and Shanghai, only those with scheduled appointments or medical or humanitarian emergencies will be able to meet with consular officers. As of May 17th, walk-in appointments are available at consular posts in Guangzhou, Shenyang, and Chengdu. Walk-ins will be accepted in Beijing beginning on June 3rd and in Shanghai on June 23rd.

The U.S. hopes to reach an agreement with China to allow the reopening of the information center soon. In the meantime, those with pressing travel needs are urged to arrive at consular posts early in the day due to the high demand for U.S. visas and the anticipated number of persons seeking walk-in appointments.

For additional details regarding specific walk-in procedures at Chinese consular posts, visit the following websites:

Beijing: <http://www.usembassy-china.org.cn>
Chengdu: <http://www.usembassy-ching.org.cn/chengdu/>
Shanghai: <http://www.usembassy-ching.org.cn/shanghai/>
Shenyang: <http://www.usembassy-ching.org.cn/shenyang/>
Guangzhou: <http://www.usembassy-ching.org.cn/guangzhou/>

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