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The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and has the honor to restate and update certain requirements related to visa application photos for all classifications of U.S. visas, including A and G visas for diplomats and officials.

When an individual applies for a visa, the application must be accompanied by a photo. Effective November 1, 2016, eyeglasses will not be allowed in any photo submitted with a visa application. Under this policy, the Department of State will no longer accept photographs of visa applicants wearing eyeglasses, except in rare, medically-documented circumstances, for example, when an applicant has had recent ocular surgery and eyeglasses are necessary to protect his/her eyes during urgent travel. Applicants must provide a medical statement signed by a medical professional/health practitioner in these cases.

This policy applies to all persons, regardless of rank, position, or purpose of travel to the United States. All other requirements for visa photos remain the same. Additional information can be found on the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website www.travel.state.gov.

Department of State,

Washington, October 20, 2016.



DIPLOMATIC NOTE