

16-1953

The Secretary of State presents his compliments to Their Excellencies, and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and has the honor to inform them of the revised definition of “immediate family” for purposes of A, G, and certain NATO visas.

The requirements for unmarried adult sons and daughters age 21 or older were revised under the regulations at 22 CFR 41.21(a)(3). As amended, “immediate family” no longer includes unmarried sons and daughters of all ages. Immediate family includes only those unmarried sons and daughters, whether by blood or adoption, who reside regularly in the household of the principal alien and who are not members of some other household, provided that such unmarried sons and daughters are: (A) Under the age of 21, or (B) Under the age of 23 and in full-time attendance as students at post-secondary educational institutions. Sons and daughters who do not meet these requirements may still qualify as immediate family under the third category for other individuals, but must be recognized as dependents of the principal alien by the sending government or international organization, as demonstrated by eligibility for rights and benefits, such as the issuance of a diplomatic or official passport, or travel or other allowance. An adult

son or daughter who is no longer recognized as an immediate family member may be eligible to apply for another visa classification or seek a change of status to another nonimmigrant status.

These changes are consistent with Department of Homeland Security regulations under 8 CFR 214.2(a)(2) and (g)(2).

Consequently, within 60 days of the date of this circular note, missions must inform the Department and apply for changes of status for any immediate family members currently in the United States in A, G, or NATO status who no longer meet the definition of “immediate family.”

Missions may contact the Diplomatic Liaison Division of the Visa Office at (202) 485-7681 Monday through Friday 2-4 p.m., or [diplomaticvisas@state.gov](mailto:diplomaticvisas@state.gov) with any questions.

Department of State,

Washington, December 7, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line.