

UPDATE ON I-360 RELIGIOUS WORKER CASES



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As previously reported on our website, all I-360 Special Immigrant Religious Worker cases are being processed at the USCIS California Service Center. Cases originally filed at one of the other USCIS Service Centers are being transferred to the California Service Center (CSC).

Processing times on I-360 Petitions for Special Immigrant Religious Workers have slowed down dramatically. Just over a month ago, the I360 processing time at the CSC was approximately 21 months. According to the most recent processing time of the CSC, as of November 17, 2006, the CSC is processing I-360 cases that were filed on February 7, 2006 (a processing time of approximately 9-10 months).

When questioned by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) at a recent meeting, USCIS immigration officials indicated that the reason for the slow-down in I-360 cases is that USCIS is conducting more random fraud audits, site surveys and site visits. This means that USCIS is often times visiting the employer/church and interview the parties to ensure that the case is not fraudulent. These additional steps are adding to the processing time delays for I-360 cases.

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