

PERMANENT RESIDENT CARDS WITHOUT EXPIRATION DATES
MAY NEED TO BE REPLACED



by
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The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced a proposal on August 22, 2007, that would require certain permanent residents to replace their green cards or risk having them terminated.

Under the proposal, approximately 750,000 permanent residents whose green cards do not have an expiration date on the front of the cards would be required to replace their cards within a specified 120-day period. The proposal is expected to become law in the near future.

As background, current versions of the “green card” (Permanent Resident Card or Form I-551) have expiration dates. Permanent residents are required to renew their permanent resident cards before they expire. However, between 1979 and 1989, permanent resident cards were issued without expiration dates. These green cards would need to be replaced by filing a Form I-90. To determine if you need to replace your green card, check the front of your green card. If there is no expiration date, you would be required to file the Form I-90.

The current application fee for the Form I-90 (to replace a lost, stolen or expired green card) is \$370.00 (which includes the biometrics fee). Those green card holders who file for the replacement card will have their fingerprints taken and a background check for criminal issues will be done. Green card holders with criminal issues should be aware of the many criminal offenses which can result in deportation or removability.

Additionally, for those individuals with these older versions of the green card who are not filing for U.S. citizenship due to limited English speaking ability, you should be aware of special provisions which would allow you to take the naturalization exam in your native language. These special provisions apply to permanent residents who are at least 50 years old and have been permanent residents for at least 20 years, as well as to permanent residents who are at least 55 years old and have been permanent residents for at least 15 years old.

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