



## **ESTABLISHING RESIDENCY WITH USCIS MANILA TO FILE FOR U.S. IMMIGRATION BENEFITS**

### **Area Of Responsibility**

The Manila Field Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS Manila") accepts and adjudicates U.S. immigration benefits filed by residents of the Philippines, New Guinea, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa, Wallis, Futuna, New Caledonia, Pitcairn Island, and Overseas French territories of French Polynesia.

### **Residency**

USCIS Manila accepts applications and petitions from an individual who can establish residency in one of the countries listed above. Section 101(a)(33) of the Immigration and Nationality Act defines "residence" as the "place of general abode; the place of general abode of the person means his principal, actual dwelling place in fact, without regard to intent." Residency must be established by the petitioner when filing a petition, or by the applicant when filing an application.

### **Form Types**

This residency rule applies to the form types listed below, along with the respective USCIS regulation:

- Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative. 8 C.F.R. 204.1(e)(2).
- Form I-360, Application for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant. 8 C.F.R. 204.1(e)(2)
- Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative. 8 C.F.R. 204.3(g)(2).
- Form I-600A, Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition. 8 C.F.R. 204.3(g)(1).
- Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility. 8 C.F.R. 212.7(a)(1)(i).
- Form I-800A, Application for Determination of Suitability to Adopt a Child from a Convention Country. 8 C.F.R. 204.308(a).
- Form I-212, Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the U.S. After Deportation or Removal. 8 C.F.R. 212.2(d).

### **Documentation**

The following list includes, but is not limited to, the types of documentation that USCIS Manila considers in determining whether residency is established in order to file U.S. immigration benefits with USCIS Manila:

- Copies of U.S. / foreign tax returns for the last three years.
- Copies of U.S. / foreign property deeds.
- Evidence of U.S. / foreign business ownership.
- Evidence of U.S. / foreign property rentals and/or leases.
- Copies of U.S./ foreign utility bills, i.e. telephone, cell phone, electrical, water, etc.
- Evidence of U.S. immigration status, i.e. copy of naturalization certificate, certificate of citizenship, birth certificate, or greencard.
- Evidence of foreign immigration status.

