

## TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

### What's Next!

Many have requested a "what's next" list of items to do after receiving your NOA2 and in what order these items should be completed.

- Sign up for e-mail from NVC (step 1)
- Begin calling NVC after five weeks from NOA2 approval (step 2)
- Once you have your case number, you can complete the DS-160 (step 14 & 15)
- Contact Greenbaum to see if he has a copy of your Embassy's P3
- Some of you can pay for your interview and schedule, **BUT** you must be sure that your Embassy allows this. Some do, and some don't.
- Check your case on CEAC (step 8)
- Check the shipping scheduling for your case file to be shipped. (step 9)
- Use the DHL hack to watch your case heading to your Embassy (step 9)
- Once your case arrives at the Embassy, and your case is set to the "ready" condition, you can schedule your medical and interview.
- It's time to move over to your country/regional forum here on VJ to ask more specific questions concerning the steps needed to take once your case is at the Embassy. (step 17)

### Helpful Tip!

I would like to share something with you that I have found to be a godsend to my writing. I discovered the Microsoft "Editor" browser extension. I use it in the new Microsoft Edge browser and use it when I'm responding to your VJ posts, where I can correct any misspelled or grammar mistakes before I submit my reply. It has given me the ability to correct my grammar and spelling mistakes on the fly. I highly recommend that you give this a look. Here are the details:

**As a browser extension in Edge or Chrome, Editor helps you compose and correct Gmail messages, social media posts, and anything you write on the web. Sign in with your Microsoft account for free to get basic spelling and grammar checking. Or sign in with your Microsoft 365 account to get refinements beyond the basics.**

For more information about the browser extension, see [Check grammar and spelling with the Microsoft Editor browser extension](#).

### FAQ

#### 1. How do I update my e-mail address with NVC

Once you receive your NOA2 approval, then contact NVC via <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/ask-nvc.html> to update your e-mail address as well as your beneficiary's e-mail address. Updating your e-mail will give you an e-mail alert when your file arrives at NVC, your case number is assigned, and when the case record leaves for your Embassy.

# TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

Enter the petitioner's information as well as the beneficiary's in the "empty box." Full name, Date of Birth, (use DD/MONTH/YYYY, i.e., 08/April/2019 for the DOB field) NOA2 receipt number and WAC number. We have found in some cases that e-mails were never sent to the petitioner nor the beneficiary. In other cases, we find that this works well. So, your mileage may vary. See the example below.

## Ask NVC

To send your question to the National Visa Center, please fill out this form and click the submit button at the bottom of the form.

**NVC Case Number or USCIS Receipt Number: \***

WACXXXXXXXXXX

This will be three letters, followed by ten numbers. For example:  
ABC2014123456

**Principal Applicant's Full Name: \***

Donna Becall Fargo

This is the person who is going to immigrate to the United States. Please enter the name as it appears on his or her passport.

**Principal Applicant's Date of Birth: \***

04/07/1964

Please enter the date of birth as it appears on the Principal Applicant's passport. If the passport does not show a day, choose the first of the month. If the passport does not show a month, choose January.

**Petitioner's Full Name: \***

John Henry Smith

This is the person who is sponsoring the Principal Applicant. Please enter the name as it appears on his or her passport.

**Who are you? \***

Petitioner

**Your Email Address: \***

jhsmith@watchtower.com

**Important!** Please double-check your email address. We can't write back to you without it!

**Type Your Question Below: \***

I would like to update our email addresses.

Petitioner: John Henry Smith  
DOB: Feb 5, 1962  
Receipt Number: WACXXXXXXXXXX  
e-mail Address: jhsmith@watchtower.com

Beneficiary: Donna Becall Fargo  
DOB: April 7, 1967  
Receipt Number: WACXXXXXXXXXX  
e-mail Address: db-fargo@somewhere.com 🙌 🇬🇪

## 2. Checking on your embassy case number from NVC

It will take 30 days (some sooner) for NVC to receive your file from USCIS after you receive the NOA2, then another 5 - 10 business days for NVC to get your data in their system and produce your case number. Call 7:00 AM eastern time for shorter wait times. NVC hours

## TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

have changed and are now 7:00 AM to 12:00 midnight. Be sure when receiving your case # that you also ask for your invoice #.

1-603-334-0700 For Immigrant Visa Service or 1- 603-334-0888 For Non-Immigrant Visa Service. Either phone number will get you an Operator. You can use either. Operator assistance is available Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 12:00 Midnight (Eastern Time).

### What to Prepare Before Calling:

You will need the following information before you call:

- Name and date of birth of the beneficiary
- Name and date of birth of the petitioner
- Receipt number from your NOA-2

### Best time to call:

Right after they open, which is around 7:00 AM US Eastern Time, Mon-Fri. Most have had luck getting the phone answered after the first ring if they called right at 7 AM. Also, in the evening, phone traffic is a little lighter.

Check their website at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/nvc-timeframes.html> for the latest information on what cases they are working on.

### 3. How long to assign a Case # from NOA2

It's been taking about 1-2 weeks for NVC to assign the case number. Then it's taking another 2-4 weeks depending on the Embassy to receive your case. Your mileage may vary!

### 4. Follow Similar VJ members timelines

Use the tools here in VJ to answer "when I am going to get etc. etc." question. Near your picture, there is a link for your timeline. Select it, and once you're on the next page near your photo, you will see "follow similar timelines," and it will populate 12 other couples who are near your dates. Scroll down, and you will see a "spreadsheet" style page showing all the variables for measurement for when others from your Embassy are getting the same notice of approval or action. Try it. It works!

### 5. Follow similar VJ members timelines from other countries

### Timeline Functions:





## TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

If you want to follow those from other countries that have similar timelines as yours, there are several tools available to you. Go to Immigration Timelines from the "Home" page of VJ and select it. (<https://www.visajourney.com/timeline/>) Once you are on the next page looked to your left, and you will see a box that states, "find similar timelines" (see example below) and select it. A list will populate with those who are processing close to your timeline. When they start to change, you will soon be behind them.






I followed those that were in my group to give me an idea where they were in processing, so I could judge if I were ahead or behind. It's accurate, maybe within a day or so. If you choose to follow those twelve members, then you will get an e-mail every time their status updates.

**Greenbaum**  
Supreme Member



Members  
+ 9,735

**City:** Secret City  
**State:** North Carolina  
**Filed for:** Removing Conditions (approved)  
**Filing:** Chicago  
**Location:** Lockbox  
**Local:** Raleigh NC  
**Office:**  
**Country:** Philippines



### 6. Be sure your profile is complete so that we can determine your Embassy

Many of our answers are predicated on the information you supply in your profile. When we look at the left column and can't assess your timeline **OR** your Embassy, it's hard for us **1** to give you a factual answer. If you look at the profile of others here, they have a flag for their country, so it makes it easy for us to reply as we can quickly determine your Embassy. Our answers will sometimes be tailored explicitly to your Embassy, hence the reason for you to complete your profile.

So, if you could help yourself out and complete your profile, that sure would help us out when we want to reply to your question with factual information.

Go to the top right of this page select your name (it's on the upper right-hand corner)> my profile> [below your picture on the right column] edit my profile. Scroll to the bottom and fill in "Immigration Info." There now, we can better serve you. Thanks

### 7. Timelines

Please complete your timeline. In your profile to the left of the page, you will see the word "timeline" **2** toward the bottom. Select it, and it will take you to the page that has the link for you to complete your timeline. Completing your timeline can help us to answer some of your questions.

### 8. Tracking your case

As a K1, when checking your case online at CEAC.state.gov, you must select an "immigrant visa" as it is treated as such, even though it is a "non-immigrant visa." Technically the K-1 is a non-immigrant visa with the intent to immigrate, but it's treated like an immigrant visa because of the AOS. It is kind of a ba\$tard. The K-1 on its own is a single entry, with a short, time-limited visa that expires within 90 days after POE. That is why it is a non-immigrant visa treated like an immigrant visa.

## TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

USICS states If you have a pending I-129f, I-90, I-485, I-751, or N-400, they've recently changed the way they're displaying processing times online to give you a more realistic date range. To check these times, visit <https://t.co/ho3dfC5KCA>

You may get an e-mail that requests that you send documents to NVC, and they will schedule your interview, which is a pad script sent out to "immigrant" visa applicants. Still, since the K-1 is treated as an "immigrant" during this process, you'll sometimes get notifications like this. Just ignore them. You do everything with the Embassy once you are approved from USCIS with a NOA2.

### 9. Tracking your case file that's in transit to your Embassy

Shipments are shipped every other Tuesday and Wednesday. Shipment status is updated throughout the day, so if yours doesn't appear, relax and have patience as many will show later in the day or the next day. This holds if you received your case number before the Wednesday before the shipping week, you most likely would be on the shipping schedule for the next scheduled shipping dates (see below for shipping dates).

Check CEAC.state.gov for updated progress and look for "in transit"! If that shows, you are on your way. Shipments are throughout Tuesday's, and Wednesday, so don't get discouraged if your record at CEAC has not changed over to "in transit." Also, for those who want to have a little fun in tracking your shipment, see the DHL hack on the first page of this thread NUMBER 19 for instructions. NOTE: The DHL hack information will not be available until Wednesday as the DHL and NVC computers must sync with each other to produce the outcome.

You have three stages 1) transit - shipment is in the air or soon will be, 2) received - physical case file is at the Embassy, and 3) ready - your case is prepared to schedule and complete your interview. These will be your current state or status to your case file once you have received the case number. Once your record is set to "ready" you are, you can proceed in processing your next steps as listed in your P3 for your Embassy. There are two ready conditions; the first ready is the electronic version arriving at the Embassy, and the second ready is the paper file that has arrived at the Embassy. Sometimes these ready conditions can appear within hours of each other and sometimes a few days apart.

### Shipping dates for 2020 are as follows:

January	February	March	April	May	June
7	4	3	14	12	9
21	18	17	28	26	23
		31			

July	August	September	October	November	December
7	4	1	6	3	1
21	18	15	20	17	15
		29			29

# TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

## 10. To track your case using the DHL hack

Go to [http://www.dhl.com/en/express/tracking/shippers\\_reference.html](http://www.dhl.com/en/express/tracking/shippers_reference.html) from this page; you add your search information. You change the day and month to what you think your package might have left NVC or call NVC to get the date your package had left NVC in route to your Embassy then go to the DHL website and enter the following information:

**NOTE: It will take 24 hours before the shipment will show any results using this hack. DHL and NVC will need time to sync and update their systems. Also, we have found that this hack works for some and not for all. So, your mileage may vary. There are two ways to follow your shipment. If, for some reason, the online hack doesn't work, then follow the second example. Both are found below.**

### EXAMPLE:

\* Shipper's Reference: EXP 24 MAR 2011A (This is the date you think it left NVC, substitute the date and leave everything else as is)

\* Date range for shipment - From: 23 - 03 - 2011

\* Date range for shipment - To: 26 - 03 - 2011

Account Number - Leave this blank

Shipment Destination: Philippines (Works for any country replace your country where the Embassy is located using the drop-down box).

Sign up for SMS tracking alerts on the DHL website. Once you find your waybill, check for the "sign up for shipment notifications." When there are any changes to the shipment, you will get an SMS message on your phone. How awesome is that!

## Track Using Personalized Shipper's References

DHL allows you to track your express shipments using a personalized reference number. Adding this reference on your waybill allows DHL account holders to differentiate shipments on their monthly invoice.

**Track by Shipper's Reference**  
Fields marked with a (\*) are mandatory

\* Shipper's Reference

\* Date range for shipment - From

\* Date range for shipment - To

Account Number

Shipment Destination

**Track >>**

I hope these tips help you along your journey. So, let's share our experiences, our advice, and ask questions.

# TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

## Second Example:

- Call DHL customer service at 1 (800) 225-5345
- Explain to the CSR that you don't have the AWB/reference number; however, you have the shipper's zip (NH 03801) and the destination postal code (your designated US embassy postal code) You can find your Embassy's postal code on their webpage.
- They will run a check for their pick up from the NVC. Depending on your embassy location, it departs to different places and can be on separate flights. They are not able to give exact flight details. Still, they can mention the flights that were coming in from and the whereabouts of the package, and when it arrives in your country, They can also produce the expected delivery date to the Embassy.

## 11. Track your case with USCIS

The old site (also the data source for all 'USCIS case tracker' apps): <https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/landing.do>

The new site: <https://myaccount.uscis.dhs.gov/> (you have to create an account and add your case # to it)

Neither is more reliable (and it's possible you won't see anything on either, or you will have to wait for the physical mail). For a while, it looked like USCIS was phasing out the "old" site, but that trend seems to have reversed itself, and there are still lots of cases that show up on only one (or much earlier on one than the other). For a while, it looked like USCIS was phasing out the "old" site, but that trend seems to have reversed itself, and there are still lots of cases that show up on only one (or much earlier on one than the other).

## 12. How long will it take to NOA2

From NOA1 to NOA2 is averaging about 3-6 months with some longer. Your mileage may vary.

## 13. USPS Informed Delivery Service

There is a service provided by the USPS (US Postal Service) whereby each morning USPS will scan your incoming mail (just the address side of the envelope) and e-mail you an update. It's very convenient these days to have advance notice that an essential piece of mail is about to be delivered.

The service is available to most communities, but some are still being rolling out, so not all areas are open. Check the website with your zip code to verify your location is available for the service. A person in the USA can sign up for this free service here: <https://informedelivery.usps.com/box/pages/intro/start.action>

# TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

## 14. Calling USCIS

You'll need your receipt number, DOB for both of you, and full names. Beneficiary or the petitioner can request.

1 (800) 375-5283 8:00 am

- **Option 1:**  
Call USCIS. Do not press anything. Do not choose a language. If someone who picked up the phone cannot answer your question, ask them to transfer you to TIER 2.
- **Option 2:**  
Dial [1-866-953-7684](tel:1-866-953-7684)
- **Option 3:**  
Call [1-800-375-5283](tel:1-800-375-5283)  
Press 1 to continue to English  
Press 2 for case status  
Press 1 if you know your receipt number  
Press your receipt number 922(followed by your WAC#).  
They will tell you to visit the website for the answer, but press 3 or wait and you will be connected to a live agent.
- **Option 4:**  
Dial [1-800-375-5283](tel:1-800-375-5283) then press 1,2,2,4,2,1 then enter receipt number then press 1.

## 15. When can the DS-160 be completed?

The DS-160 is a document that stands alone. The DS-160 does not have a fee, and It does not need to be completed now, but after you receive your case number, then you can schedule your interview. This action must be verified with your P3 letter or others from your country. Most embassies require the DS-160 confirmation number to complete the payment of the MRV interview fee.

## 16. Work together on your DS-160 made easy

TeamViewer allows you to remotely access and control the desktop of your computers and servers from anywhere, on a 3G or better internet connection. This access is device agnostic and completely secure. Use TeamViewer to connect the computer screens of the petitioner, and the beneficiary, allowing you to work together on the DS-160. Using TeamViewer, you will identify any problems that need correcting as you work together. Considering that the beneficiary will be legally required to submit the document, you both should feel secure that it is correct before submitting your document. The use of the software is free, and you can download and read more about it here. There is an excellent tutorial on how to complete the DS-160. The link is below.

[https://th.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/90/2016/04/ds\\_160\\_step\\_by\\_step\\_guide.pdf](https://th.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/90/2016/04/ds_160_step_by_step_guide.pdf)

<https://www.teamviewer.com/en-us/>

# TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

<https://www.makeuseof.com/tag/12-excellent-free-screen-sharing-and-remote-access-tools-you-havent-heard-of-yet/>

## 17. What steps does my approved visa go through until I receive it?

When the Embassy is ready to issue a visa, reference CEAC.state.gov, where you check your status, start with selecting "Check My Visa Application Status" **1** then you'll be taken to the next page **2** where you choose "Immigrant Visa Application" **1** next select your location **2** and then enter your case number **3** (we have found that it will take less time to return a status if you use your DS-160 confirmation number) and if that returns an error message then try "Nonimmigrant Visa Application" status, after which you should get the most up to date information. During these steps your visa changes to "Ready" ==> "Administrative Processing" ==> "Issued" status as well. These steps sometimes transpire over a day or even a few days. Some smaller Embassy's it happens within hours. Sometimes, it might skip "Administrative Processing" and go from "Ready" to "Issue" without hesitation. **No one can tell you with any certainty when your visa will be issued or how long you will be in AP/case refused. We have seen two weeks to a year in some cases. Patience will be needed.**

The screenshot shows the CEAC website interface. At the top, there is a header for the U.S. Department of State Consular Electronic Application Center. Below this, there is a 'VISA' menu. Under the 'NONIMMIGRANT' section, there are three links: 'DS-160, Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application', 'DS-1648, Online A, G, or NATO Application', and 'Check My Visa Application Status'. A red circle with the number '1' is overlaid on the 'Check My Visa Application Status' link, and a red arrow points to it with the text 'Make this as your selection'. Under the 'IMMIGRANT' section, there are three links: 'DS-261, Online Choice of Address and Agent', 'Fee Payment', and 'DS-260, Online Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration Application'. A 'Check My Visa Application Status' link is also present under the 'IMMIGRANT' section.

# TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy



## Visa Status Check

Welcome! On this website, you can check your U.S. visa application status.



Visa Application Type  
NONIMMIGRANT VISA (NIV) 1

Please select a location and enter your Application ID or Case Number.

Select a location  
- SELECT ONE - 2

Application ID or Case Number 3  
(e.g., AA0020AKAX or 2012118 345 0001)

Enter the code as shown  
RISE

Submit

Beginning March 3, 2020, if you have a 221g Cases status (you'll receive one after the interview either handed to you or emailed), you will now see "Refused," even when there was no real update on your 'Case Last Updated Date' or anything has changed. One key thing to note is the text under it has changed. It reads like below now.

*"A US Consular Officer has adjudicated and refused your visa application. Please follow any instructions provided by the consular officer. **If the consular officer informed you that your case was refused for administrative processing, your case would remain refused while undergoing such processing.** You will receive another adjudication once such processing is complete. Please be advised that the processing time varies and that you will be contacted if additional information is needed. For more information, please visit [TRAVEL.STATE.GOV](http://TRAVEL.STATE.GOV) or the website for the Embassy or Consulate at which you made your visa application. For more information, please visit US Consulate General <Consulate name>."*

Pay close attention to the bold text, and it basically tells that, if you were given Administrative processing, then it will be processed in administrative processing.

Administrative processing is a catch-all term for all post-interview processing before a final visa decision is made. Any case that is otherwise approvable on its face, but has an open, unresolved issue is referred to administrative processing.

Unresolved issues include security advisory opinions, legal advisory opinions, general advisory opinions, fraud checks, supervisory review, waiting for additional evidence from the applicant, accurate processing of the visa, and other issues.

# TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

Administrative processing is at its most frustrating when it goes on for several months. Typically this is caused by a consular post waiting for a response on some form of an advisory opinion. Although, as was experienced in 2014 and 2015, processing delays may also result from system failures in the Consular Consolidated Database (CCD) and more recently due to additional administrative hurdles such as the recent flurry of executive orders regarding visa issuance.

The most common and seemingly inexplicable causes of delay are fraud detection, legal advisory opinions (AO), and security advisory opinions (SAO).

## **18. Where should I go for answers to questions I have about my Embassy interview procedures?**

Regional Sub-forums are a great place to be a part of discussions on US Immigration from significant regions around the world. Topics include travel, moving, what to eat, and any other experience you may wish to share or inquire about, including all there is to know about your Embassy interview.

Each country is divided into sub-forums here on VJ. Sub-forums are where you go during your wait for your NOA2, where at this stage, you'll get familiar with those who have gone before you and those who are currently processing. There is a wealth of information that lies within these threads. It's a better place to ask than someone in another thread who is from Germany, Spain, or Norway and may not know the "steps" that you will follow for approval in your Country's Embassy. Each embassies procedures are different, so be careful where you are getting your information. If needed, ask for links to the information the person is sitting to ensure you are getting the correct information for your Embassy.

To get there, go up to the blue ribbon at the top of the page, select "forums," and scroll down about 3/4 of the page for the link to your region/embassy. For ease, I have included the sub-forums below for your use. <https://www.visajourney.com/forums/forum/100-regional-discussion/>

### Regional Sub-Forums

- [Africa: Sub-Saharan](#)
- [Asia: East and Pacific](#)
- [Asia: South](#)
- [Australia and New Zealand](#)
- [Canada](#)
- [Caribbean](#)
- [China](#)
- [Europe & Eurasia \(except the UK and Russia\)](#)
- [India](#)
- [Mexico, Latin & South America](#)
- [Middle East and North Africa](#)
- [Philippines](#)
- [Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus](#)
- [Thailand](#)

## TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

- [United Kingdom](#)
- [Vietnam](#)

### 19. Getting an e-mail of your Case Number

The quickest way to get a copy of your Case # is by e-mailing NVC and requesting your case file number. Below is the process for e-mailing NVC.

E-mail: [NVCInquiry@state.gov](mailto:NVCInquiry@state.gov)

#### REQUIRED SECURITY INFORMATION:

You are required to provide the following security information with each inquiry to receive a case-specific response:

- \* NVC Case Number or USCIS Receipt Number (Place in the subject line of the e-mail).
- \* Petitioner's name and date of birth.
- \* Principal Applicant's name and date of birth.

It's recommended that you e-mail NVC for your Case #, which will give you a correspondence sooner than the hard copy of the letter arriving in the mail.

### 20. How to Find Out When Your Case Number was Assigned

For those that don't call every single day and want to know what date their case number was assigned, there's an easy way to find out that involves looking at your case number. For those that don't call every single day and want to know precisely what date their case number was assigned, there's an easy way to find out that involves looking at your case number. The first three letters are the three-letter consulate/embassy code. The next four numbers are the year plus 500. And finally, the last three digits are the sequential case number as assigned. You can find a chart with [Julian dates](#) here: The next three numbers are the Julian date that the case was assigned that date.

## TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

For example, MTL2014815162. Let's put some lines in to divide it up. So: MTL|2014|815|162. The first three letters indicate that this case is going through Montreal, and the number was assigned on November 11, 2014, and it was the 162nd case that day to be assigned a number. The first three letters indicate that this case is going through Montreal, and the number was assigned on November 11, 2014, and it was the 162nd case that day to be assigned a number. Use the chart below.

### Julian Date Calendar for Year 2020

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	1	32	61	92	122	153	183	214	245	275	306	336
2	2	33	62	93	123	154	184	215	246	276	307	337
3	3	34	63	94	124	155	185	216	247	277	308	338
4	4	35	64	95	125	156	186	217	248	278	309	339
5	5	36	65	96	126	157	187	218	249	279	310	340
6	6	37	66	97	127	158	188	219	250	280	311	341
7	7	38	67	98	128	159	189	220	251	281	312	342
8	8	39	68	99	129	160	190	221	252	282	313	343
9	9	40	69	100	130	161	191	222	253	283	314	344
10	10	41	70	101	131	162	192	223	254	284	315	345
11	11	42	71	102	132	163	193	224	255	285	316	346
12	12	43	72	103	133	164	194	225	256	286	317	347
13	13	44	73	104	134	165	195	226	257	287	318	348
14	14	45	74	105	135	166	196	227	258	288	319	349
15	15	46	75	106	136	167	197	228	259	289	320	350
16	16	47	76	107	137	168	198	229	260	290	321	351
17	17	48	77	108	138	169	199	230	261	291	322	352
18	18	49	78	109	139	170	200	231	262	292	323	353
19	19	50	79	110	140	171	201	232	263	293	324	354
20	20	51	80	111	141	172	202	233	264	294	325	355
21	21	52	81	112	142	173	203	234	265	295	326	356
22	22	53	82	113	143	174	204	235	266	296	327	357
23	23	54	83	114	144	175	205	236	267	297	328	358
24	24	55	84	115	145	176	206	237	268	298	329	359
25	25	56	85	116	146	177	207	238	269	299	330	360
26	26	57	86	117	147	178	208	239	270	300	331	361
27	27	58	87	118	148	179	209	240	271	301	332	362
28	28	59	88	119	149	180	210	241	272	302	333	363
29	29	60	89	120	150	181	211	242	273	303	334	364
30	30		90	121	151	182	212	243	274	304	335	365
31	31		91		152		213	244		305		366

## TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

### 21. How to handle vaccinations.

First, if you have a vaccination record from your youth, present it to your medical exam. Second, if you do not have a vaccination record, one is not required. What will take place during the exam the medical staff will interview/review your vaccination record with you. If you do not have one, then they will continue the exam by physical observation of any skin scars. The third and last method they use is to use some of the blood they draw to determine what you will need. As a K-1, you are not required to complete the vaccinations but will be required to do so before you apply for You have two choices. Get your vaccinations done there in your country as they are usually cheaper. Second is not to vaccinate, but you will need them completed once you start your AOS submittal. At that time, you will need to see a "civil surgeon" for them to either administer your vaccinations or to transpose them to the I-693 for your AOS package. CS will charge you anywhere from \$75 - \$250 for this service. Either way, you must have vaccinations to complete your AOS for the two-year green card.

If you get a DS-3025 from the medical exam from your country with all vaccinations complete, then you use it for the AOS package, and the I-693 isn't required. Persons applying for an immigrant visa overseas and persons applying for legal permanent residence within the United States (known as a status adjustment) are required to provide proof of vaccinations as a part of the medical examination process. If they do not already have evidence, they must begin vaccination according to the [CDC Vaccine Technical Instructions](#) for the [overseas exam](#) or [adjustment of status examination](#). The vaccination schedules in the Technical instructions are based on [immunization schedules](#) recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

For answers to questions about immunization and immigration, see [Vaccination Criteria for US Immigration](#).

For resources to support immunization and healthcare of immigrants, contact the [state health department](#) where the immigrants will settle.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/rec-vac/immigrants-refugees.html>

### 22. Top ten mistakes beneficiaries make at their interview.

<https://www.visajourney.com/forums/topic/546196-top-10-mistakes-at-visa-interviews/?tab=comments#comment-7591501>

## TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

### 23. Possible interview questions.

Some example questions would be:

- What is the name of your fiancé/e?
- Where did you meet?
- When did you meet?
- How did you meet?
- When are you planning to get married?
- What is your fiancé/es work?
- Have you gone out of the country?
- How long were you out of the country?
- How many times has your fiancé/e visited you?
- Where did you go when your fiancé/e visited you?
- Do you plan to have kids?
- Where do you plan on staying in the US?
- name and DOB
- what year did you meet
- How did you meet
- what are your fiancé parents' names
- your fiancé's employer and job
- have either of you been married before
- other countries you've been to
- do you have kids together

These are some of the questions, but rest assure that all the questions will be about the petitioner, the beneficiary, and the relationship. Always tell the truth even if the truth is, "I don't know." Don't rush in answering and give a straightforward answer. Look the CO in the eye when answering and smile. Don't give a novel as your answer. Just brief and concise. Don't volunteer any information unless asked; this could send you down the wrong road.

Don't forget to ask if you passed.

### 24. Public Charge and DS-5540 form.

"The State Department has chosen to implement this new form and rule change in the most expedient way possible. Rather than giving immigrant visa applicants time to prepare for the changes and apply the DS-5540 only to those who are filing the DS-260 after the effective date, the agency is applying it immediately. In response to public comments on the DS-5540, the agency writes:" once the DS-5540 is approved, consular officers may ask visa applicants orally or in writing (i.e., using the form) any or all of the questions from Form DS-5540 necessary for the consular officer to make the public charge determination."

Although some refusals under INA section 221(g) can be overturned, the change in the CEAC correctly reflects that the applicant's visa application has been refused. That status may change if the applicant can demonstrate to a consular officer he or she is eligible for a visa or if information comes to the attention of the consular officer from other sources that resolve any outstanding issues relating to the applicant's eligibility for the visa.

The applicant should refer to the instructions the consular officer gave at the end of the visa interview and to [travel.state.gov/visas](http://travel.state.gov/visas) for more information about his or her case.

## TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

"...clients should be prepared for heightened public charge screening when they appear for consular interviews beginning on February 24, 2020. Clients already scheduled for an interview, including those scheduled in the future and whose DS-260 was submitted before February 24, 2020, should bring with them a completed DS-5540 together with supporting documents."

The DS-260 is a form used by CR-1 and other immigrant visas. K-1's continue to use the DS-160 for their process. We see the DS-5540 required at some embassy currently for both visa types when we believe that only the CR-1 should complete the form. We cannot say whether the Embassy will ask for the DS-5540 for K-1's, but until the "dust settles," we are recommending that you prepare the document in the event it is requested at the interview. UPDATE: Some embassies are asking for the DS-5540 from the K-1's visa types, so again we recommend that you prepare the DS-5540 in the event it's requested at the interview. This can save you 2-4 weeks waiting for your visa. Here is the link to the form

<https://eforms.state.gov/Forms/ds5540.PDF>

Also, we have a YouTube video on how to complete the DS-5540 Link:

<https://youtu.be/j6vHppWlyxA>

### **25. Phone apps to get notified when there are changes to your case.**

I-Tunes

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/lawfully-case-tracker/id1435063223>

Android

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.spinachsoftware.immigration.uscis.cases.tatus&hl=en>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=xiaohui.usciscasechecker>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.wenbin.casetracker>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=dev.ynk.uscis.monitor>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.smartprocesses.ict.casetracker>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.wdwil.ITracker.Lite>

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.lawfully.lawfully\\_ai\\_tracker](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.lawfully.lawfully_ai_tracker)

### **26. How to see more information about your visa journey using the links from your profile.**

VJ has compelling tools to use to find information about your journey. I have put together a tutorial for just one of those tools.

Using the "Flag" from your profile, that has a link to Embassy specific information.

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1tdEjw5SbJgFTYbG9VWi7lu\\_3s0CJIYal](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1tdEjw5SbJgFTYbG9VWi7lu_3s0CJIYal)

## TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

### 27. How to use the timeline link in the profile.

Many times you often wonder, or you ask the question, "When did you get such and such" when you could have answered that yourself by using the timeline contained in the person who you want to ask the question. Using their profile on the left-hand column, you select the "timeline" link, and it will take you to their timeline, and you will have your answer immediately. Here is a video demonstrating how to do that straightforward exercise.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1-p9yarCgHnGzDjx-ZEJMV8IQD1Mok3vz>

### 28. My NOA2 expiration date is nearing its end of life. What must I do?

First, the Embassy prefers that your case is interviewed within that four-month "window" indicated on the NOA2. If you require more time, the NOA2 can be extended up to a year by your Embassy but with good reason, and the Embassy doesn't need to extend the NOA2 for the "one" period. Most will do, and some require a new letter of intent for the interview. But each Embassy is different. The new extension, if approved, will be for an additional four months. Extensions are in the form of a 4-month extension with each approval till you reach one year. If you need to go beyond a year, then you must go to the end of the line and begin the process from I-129f over again and pay the fees. You must provide a reason for the NOA2 extension when requesting the extension from your Embassy.

Here is an excellent example of what to do. <https://www.visatutor.com/how-to-extend-your-i-129f-validity/>

### 29. I'm getting prepared for my interview. What things should I remember?

The number one rule in interviewing is you need to project to the CO that your relationship is bonafide.

Things to remember:

- (1) Always tell the truth even if the truth is, "I don't know."
- (2) Look the CO in the eyes when answering.
- (3) Be confident with your answer. Remember, you deserve this visa!
- (4) Don't volunteer any information if not asked for. Give short and to the point answers. Don't get into storytelling.
- (5) Remember to smile as this is the first day of the rest of your life. If you don't get beyond this point with approval, your life will seem incomplete. You are in charge!

**NOTE:** If they keep your passport, there is a 99% chance you're **APPROVED**, but a visa is not technically approved until **ISSUED**. Good luck.

## TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

### 30. Help Vampire

Are you a help Vampire? Let's look at what distinguishes a Help Vampire.

Identifying Help Vampires can be tricky because they look like any ordinary person (or Internet user, whichever is lesser). But by closely observing an individual's behavior using this handy checklist, you too can identify Help Vampires in the field:

- Do they ask the same, tired questions others ask (at a rate of once or more per minute)?
- Do they lack the ability or inclination to ask the almighty Google?
- Do they refuse to take the time to ask coherent, specific questions?
- Do they think helping them must be the high point of your day?
- Do they get offensive, as if you needed to prove to them why they should use Ruby on Rails?
- Are they just waiting for some poor, well-intentioned person to do all their thinking for them?
- Can you tell they aren't interested in having their question answered, so much as getting someone else to do their work?

### 31. How do I ask a good question?

We'd love to help you to **improve your chances** of getting an answer, here are some tips:

#### 1. Search and research

Have you thoroughly searched for an answer *before* asking your question? VJ has a great tool to search for your topic, as it may have been covered. No, your personal journey is not going to be the same as others, so keep your questions formed around the idea, not your own problems. Sharing your research helps everyone. Tell us what you found and why it didn't meet your needs. This demonstrates that you've taken the time to try to help yourself, it saves us from reiterating obvious answers, and above all, it enables you to get a more specific and relevant answer!

#### 2. Be on-topic

Our community is defined by a specific set of topics that you can view from the Main Forum page. Go to the blue ribbon and look for the "forums" tab and select it and find where best you should ask your question. There is a vast array of topics, and the conversations within are very enlightening. Don't stay in one group venture out and discover other threads and themes.

## TIPS, TRICKS and HACKS from the NOA2 to NVC and to the Embassy

### **3. Be specific**

If you ask a vague question, you'll get a vague answer. But if you give us details and context, we can provide a useful solution.

### **4. Make it relevant to others**

We like to help as many people at a time as we can. Make it clear how your question is relevant to more people than just you, and more of us will be interested in your item and willing to look into it.

### **5. Keep an open mind**

The answer to your question may not always be the one you wanted, but that doesn't mean it is wrong. A conclusive answer isn't always possible. When in doubt, ask people to cite their sources, or to explain how/where they learned something. Even if we don't agree with you, or tell you exactly what you wanted to hear, remember: we're just trying to help.