



4 January 2017

Information circular*

To: Members of the staff at Headquarters
From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management
Subject: **Revised definition of “immediate family” for the purposes of the G visa**

1. The purpose of the present circular is to inform staff members holding a G-4 visa of a diplomatic note received from the United States Mission to the United Nations regarding the revised definition of “immediate family” for dependent children.

2. “Immediate family” includes unmarried children, whether by blood or adoption, who reside regularly in the household of the staff member, provided that such unmarried children are:

(a) Under the age of 21;

(b) Under the age of 23 and in full-time attendance as students at post-secondary educational institutions.

Children who do not meet the requirements above may still qualify as immediate family under the third category for other individuals, provided that they are recognized by the Organization as dependants of the staff member as demonstrated by their eligibility for rights and benefits.

3. Children who are no longer recognized as immediate family members may be eligible to apply for another visa classification or seek a change of status to another non-immigrant status.

4. The diplomatic note is issued consistent with Department of Homeland Security regulations. The details of the revised procedures are set out in the annex to the present circular.

* The present circular will be in effect until further notice.



Annex

Diplomatic note dated 9 December 2016 from the United States Mission to the United Nations

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations and has the honour to inform the latter of the revised definition of “immediate family” for the 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 dependants 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 non-immigrant 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, the United Nations Secretariat must inform the United States Mission and apply for change 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”.
