



BEWARE OF IMMIGRATION FRAUD

What is FRAUD?

- It is the art of **deliberately defrauding** a person with the intention of **stealing their money**. It is committed often by unscrupulous individuals who take advantage of other's needs with no regards for the consequences of their actions.

How does it affect us in IMMIGRATION ISSUES?

- Frequently, immigrants fall prey to **scam artists** that promise them an easy path to legalization only to cheat them out of their hard earned money and sometimes put them at **risk of Deportation**.
- **Example:** If someone applies for an **immigration benefit they don't qualify for**, as it frequently happens with many **asylum cases**, the **ending result too often is DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS**.

How to avoid becoming a victim of fraud

- Always, when seeking legal assistance, visit trustworthy places and preferably **accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals**.
- Try to get **more than one opinion** before making your final decision.
- Never believe whoever **promises** you an **immigration benefit** because they have a "**special connection** inside the immigration department"
- Do not pay for the immigration Forms.
- Ask to be given a **contract (in English and in your native language)** to better understand the services you have been promised.
- Ask to be given a **copy of the application** submitted to immigration.
- Demand to be given back all of your **ORIGINAL** documentation.

What to do if you are victim of Immigration Fraud?

- Report it to the following agencies :
 1. **LA County Department of Consumer Affairs**
(213) 974-1452
500 W Temple, Room B-96
Los Angeles, CA 90012
 2. **California Department of Justice Office of Immigrant Assistance**
1-888-587-0557

It is important that you know: REPORTING THE FRAUD will not affect your immigration application.

**** PLEASE, help us stop the unauthorized practice of immigration law by standing up to these scammers and REPORTING THEM****



REMEMBER: NOT ALL IS LOST . If you believe you have been a victim of immigration fraud, **DO NOT LOSE HOPE**. Every case is different and it is crucial that you seek legal assistance and consult with an expert. **There might be an Immigration solution for YOU!!!**

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COALITION FOR HUMANE IMMIGRANT RIGHTS OF LOS ANGELES

