President Trump’s Amended Proclamation

On Monday June 22, 2020, President Trump signed a proclamation which suspends and limits the entry of certain non-immigrant groups. This proclamation comes in addition to the one signed by the President on Wednesday April 22, 2020, which limited the entry of prospective immigrants who are outside the United States and have not been issued an immigrant visa or other travel document.

The current proclamation extends the suspension to persons on an H-1B or H-2B visa along with any accompanying relative; persons on a J visa that are participating in an internship program, trainee program, teaching program, camp counsellor, au pair, or summer work travel program, along with any accompanying relative; and persons on an L visa and any accompanying relative. The proclamation applies to persons outside the United States, persons that have a valid non-immigrant visa on the effective date of the proclamation, and persons that do not have an official travel document other than a visa.

On June 29, 2020, President Trump amended the proclamation. The groups affected remain the same as amended, but now it seems like the U.S. consulates will not be allowed to issue new H, L, or J visas until 20201, even for those people present in the United States on June 24. This proclamation and amendment may be challenged in Court, currently the proclamation is in effect.

There are exemptions from the amended proclamation. For instance, a person that was present on June 24, 2020, and has an H, J, or L, visa that will remain valid through the date that the person seeks to re-enter the country is exempt from the ban. A person that was outside the United States on June 24, 2020, and holds a valid H, J, or L, visa that will remain valid through the date that the person seeks to re-enter the country, is also exempt. Green Card holders, spouses and children of U.S. Citizens, Canadian nationals, J-1 visa holders other than the ones mentioned above, and those entering the United States that are deemed essential to the national interest, are all exempt from the ban. Finally, the proclamation should not apply to persons on other visas or persons within the United States attempting to change status to another category.

The scope of this proclamation is limited to the three visa categories, however it is possible that more restrictions could be put into place, and if you are concerned, you should contact an attorney.

For any questions or concerns about specific situations, please feel free to contact Adam Kanji at akanji@mdmc-law.com.