



January 8, 2015

Dear Immigrant Brothers and Sisters,

As the leaders of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Seattle, we want to inform you of the recent announcement by President Obama concerning immigration. We welcome the Administration's action and hope that many of you will be able to apply. At the same time, we are aware that the action offers only temporary relief. We will not rest until the Congress enacts comprehensive immigration reform that is just and compassionate.


Many of you already know the U.S. government will begin accepting applications in 2015 for deferred action on deportation for two main groups of immigrants: 1) an expansion of DACA for those who were brought to the U.S. before age 16 years, and 2) the parents of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents – this is referred to as DAPA.


We have encouraged pastors and school principals to help you in getting copies of school and parish records as you seek documentation for your applications. Please know that we support your efforts to keep your families together. However, there are some important things you need to know before applying:

1. **Do not pay anyone for help at this time.** No one can apply for these new forms of relief yet. Many details regarding the application criteria are still not available. We expect people to be able to apply for the expanded DACA in February and the new DAPA in May. Get up-to-date information at www.adminrelief.org.
2. **Protect Yourself from Fraud.** Beware of anyone who advertises that he/she is a *notario* or a *notario publico* and can represent you in immigration proceedings. These people are not authorized to give legal advice. For more information, see: <http://www.stopnotariofraud.org>
3. **Begin collecting necessary documents.** Go to www.adminrelief.org for a list of documents that will be needed to apply, or call St. James Cathedral Immigrant Assistance at 206-382-4511.
4. **If you have questions,** you can also attend information sessions which are being held around the state, (<http://nwirp.org/resources/immigrationreform>), or call St. James Cathedral Immigrant Assistance at 206-382-4511.

As Pope Francis told a gathering of immigrants last year, "The Church is at your side as you seek a more dignified life for yourselves and your families." As your local bishops, we are at your side.

Sincerely in Christ,


Most Rev. J. Peter Sartain
Archbishop of Seattle


Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, M.Sp.S.
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle

Enclosure

PROTECT YOURSELF

Deferred Action Applications are NOT available yet!

There are a lot of people who would like to cheat you. They could jeopardize your future immigration status. **Seek only qualified legal help!**

- On Nov. 20, President Obama announced certain actions his administration is taking concerning immigration. However, **no one can apply yet!**
- **DO NOT** pay anyone who claims they can request legalization on your behalf or apply for employment authorization through this new process!
- **DO NOT** send any applications!

Make sure you consult an attorney or BIA (Board of Immigration Appeals)

Accredited Representative. Ask to see their credentials! Visit <http://cliniclegal.org/about-us/affiliate-directory> or www.aialawyer.com to find a qualified representative in your area.

Do not trust people who claim to have a special relationship with USCIS, or who guarantee certain results or faster processing.

Beware of anyone who advertises that he/she is a *notario* or a *notario publico* and can represent you in immigration proceedings. These people are not authorized to give legal advice. For more information, see: <http://www.stopnotariofraud.org/>

If you have been cheated, get help. Contact your local Catholic Community Services office or other trusted community organization.

Note: This handout is not legal advice. It is for educational and informational purposes only.