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Immigration

## State Dept. Extends Interview Waiver Eligibility Criteria

**Legal Update**

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*This article was prepared with the assistance of ABIL, the Alliance of Business Immigration Lawyers, of which Loan Huynh, Fredrikson Immigration Department Chair, is a member.*

The Department of State, in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security, has temporarily expanded the ability of consular officers to waive the in-person interview requirement for individuals applying for a nonimmigrant visa in the same classification. Previously, only those applicants whose nonimmigrant visas expired within 12 months were eligible for an interview waiver. The expiration period is temporarily extended to 24 months. The policy, which was set to expire December 31, 2021, is now effective through March 31, 2021.

Travelers are encouraged to review the website of the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for details on available services and eligibility information and instructions on applying for a visa without an interview.