



25 April 2020

Dear Clients and Friends:

I am writing regarding the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis and its effect on your immigration matters and this practice. Out of concern for client, prospective client, and staff health and safety, I have decided to temporarily close the Greenberg Visa Law office location for most services. Below please find an outline of how this will work.

### **General Health Information**

I am not a medical expert and this message is not intended to substitute for medical information. Public health updates are available from the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and the [World Health Organization](#), as well as the [Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#) and [Allegheny County](#) health departments.

### **Immigration Agencies**

USCIS has [suspended](#) all in-person services except in emergencies by request. All interviews, fingerprinting appointments and naturalization oath ceremonies until at least Thursday, 4 June, will be rescheduled. The immigration court has continued all non-detained hearings through Friday, 15 May, as well. Consulates are experiencing significant disruptions particularly in badly affected countries. Should any of the information regarding major immigration-related agencies within the Departments of [Homeland Security](#), [Justice](#), or [State](#) change, they will provide updated guidance on such closures, rescheduling, and any changes to filing procedures.

Unless and until instructed otherwise, deadlines for immigration court filings, responses to requests for evidence, and otherwise remain in effect as well. Certain deadlines are being temporarily extended but must still be met within the new schedule. There may be special procedures for filing in certain locations.

### **Immigration Policy**

The United States may temporarily extend or change the status of any nonimmigrants lawfully present in the United States. It may permit delayed satisfactory departure of nonimmigrants present pursuant to a visa waiver admission. It may also defer action on those who are otherwise unauthorized to remain in the United States or provide for delayed readmission to the United States for permanent residents unable to return to the United States timely. Emergency procedures exist for numerous different circumstances; everyone's situation is different and if you have questions about the effects of this public health crisis on your own immigration matter, I encourage you to contact our office.

The United States is also temporarily suspending issuance of certain immigrant visas for potentially limited times. This overlaps with the existing consular closures and the full extent of this decision is currently unknown. New policies on public charge determination for some immigrants are also now in effect. Please note, however, that the Department of

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**201 Penn Center Blvd., Suite 400, Pittsburgh, PA 15235**

[www.asgvisalaw.com](http://www.asgvisalaw.com)

412.376.7302 ☎

412.626.5062 📠

Homeland Security has indicated that neither emergency medical benefits nor disaster relief is considered in a public charge assessment. Therefore, if you believe it necessary to obtain medical treatment, you should be able to do so without risk to your immigration status or future immigration applications. Your health is of paramount importance. If you have any specific questions about this, please contact us to go over your specific circumstances.

### **Greenberg Visa Law Operations**

I am temporarily closing our office location to client and prospective client visits after Friday, 13 March. We will continue operating from the office intermittently or from offsite locations throughout the remainder of this crisis. Unless USCIS and the immigration court close, I will continue attending all interviews and hearings previously scheduled, but appointments at our office will instead be handled remotely by telephone, televideo, email or other means. Please continue sending any mail or courier packages to the regular business address, but note that there may be a delay in our response. Except for documents requiring original signatures, I encourage sending all items by email, which should incur no such delays.

Payment procedures will also be altered. Card and bank transfer (in lieu of check) payments can continue to be made through the online payment system, and we will send out instructions on doing so as needed. Cash payments are now suspended, but money orders will still be accepted by mail. I understand that should mass closures occur, or for other exceptional circumstances, some clients may be unable to keep up with their payment responsibilities. Please keep us informed of any such emergency as we are happy to work with you to set up mutually agreeable payment terms when appropriate. I am also suspending all consultation fees for the duration of the closure.

These measures are, undoubtedly, extreme, but I believe they are commensurate with the scale of this emergency. We look forward to resuming normal business practices as soon as possible and helping everyone to successfully navigate the effects of this crisis on their particular immigration situations.

Should you have any questions about this announcement, please [let me know](#). I will also endeavor to update this posting as necessary.

Stay safe everyone,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam S. Greenberg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adam S. Greenberg  
Attorney at Law