



Colavecchio & Colavecchio Law Details Green Card Assistance Under Revised USCIS Public Charge Guidance

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Colavecchio & Colavecchio Law Office, a Nashville-based immigration law firm, is advising green card applicants to review recently revised federal guidance that changes how officers evaluate certain applications. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services issued updated Policy Manual guidance on the public charge ground of inadmissibility following the rescission of the 2022 Final Rule, with changes taking effect September 18, 2026.

Under the revised guidance, officers may weigh a wider range of public benefits, including food assistance, Medicaid, and housing vouchers, when determining whether to approve a green card application. Applications filed before September 18 will be adjudicated under the prior 2022 policy, which considered a narrower set of factors. Because the filing date determines which rule applies, timing has become a significant consideration for individuals preparing to submit their paperwork.

USCIS is also releasing a revised Form I-485 that aligns with the new guidance. The agency has indicated it will reject the older edition of the form once the change takes effect, adding another procedural detail for

applicants to track as they prepare submissions.

The Nashville immigration law office reports that the policy shift underscores the importance of accurate preparation and careful attention to filing deadlines. The firm provides green card assistance across a range of matters, including marriage-based petitions, adjustment of status, consular processing, and responses to Requests for Evidence and Notices of Intent to Deny.

"The revised public charge guidance changes the calculus for many families, and the filing date now carries real weight," said Chris Colavecchio, lead attorney at Colavecchio & Colavecchio Law. "Applicants who understand which rule applies to their case are in a far better position to prepare complete and accurate submissions."

The firm's process begins with an eligibility assessment that examines an applicant's situation and identifies available pathways under U.S. law, along with any potential complications. From there, the legal team prepares and files required petitions and applications, such as Forms I-130, I-140, and I-485, with attention to USCIS regulations intended to reduce the risk of delays or denials caused by procedural errors.

The Nashville immigration law office also assists clients in gathering and organizing supporting documentation, including financial records, relationship evidence, and educational credentials. Interview preparation is part of the process as well, with attorneys available to attend USCIS interviews upon request.

"Every case reflects a family's specific circumstances, so a personalized strategy matters," Colavecchio added. "The goal is to present each application on the strongest possible legal footing while keeping clients informed at every stage."

Colavecchio & Colavecchio Law Office is a family-owned firm based in Nashville, Tennessee, specializing in immigration law. The team brings more than a decade of individual experience across immigration waivers, green card acquisition and renewal, citizenship and naturalization applications, spouse and fiance visas, marriage-based green cards, and responses to NOIDs and USCIS Field Office denials. The firm also handles petitions to remove conditions on green cards, employment-based visas, work and travel authorization, and matters connected to the USCIS Nashville Field Office.

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For more information about Colavecchio & Colavecchio Law, contact the company here: Colavecchio & Colavecchio Law 615-242-3333 info@colavecchiolaw.com 339 Harrison St, TN 37219, United States

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Colavecchio and Colavecchio Law Office is a Nashville-based immigration law firm. We specialize in marriage-based green cards, K visas, family petitions, provisional waivers, denials, status adjustments, and citizenship or naturalization applications.

Website: <https://colavecchiolaw.com/>

Email: info@colavecchiolaw.com

Phone: 615-242-3333

