

Citizenship & Immigration Legal Services in Rhode Island

For more information
please contact one of the
following accredited
agencies in Rhode Island:

Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island

645 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI 02907
(401) 784-8650
www.diiri.org

Diocese of Providence Office of Immigrants & Refugees

1 Cathedral Square
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 278-4500
www.diocesepvd.org

Progreso Latino

626 Broad Street
Central Falls, RI 02888
(401) 728-5920
www.progresolatino.org

Sojourner House

386 Smith Street
Providence, RI 02908
(401) 861-6191
www.sojournerri.org

In the state of Rhode Island there are four accredited agencies approved by the Department of Justice (DOJ): **Dorcas International Institute of Rhode Island, Diocese of Providence's Office of Immigrants & Refugees, Progreso Latino and Sojourner House.**

An accredited agency is a non-profit agency approved by the DOJ to provide immigration services to the community at nominal fees. The agency will then apply for the agency's legal staff's accreditation, the right to represent clients in immigration proceedings. Accredited representatives normally are licensed for a period of three years. For approval and renewal of accreditation the representative must provide proof of professional development such as maintenance of immigration law knowledge by attending trainings, and access to a large legal reference library.

If you choose to have an accredited representative when filing an application or petition with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the representative must file a "Notice of Entry or Appearance as Attorney of Representative" form (Form G-28) with the application or petition. Upon submitting the G-28 form, the representative becomes accountable and accepts responsibility for your application or petition.

Notarios, notary publics and immigration consultants may NOT represent you before USCIS. While in many other countries the word "notario" means that the individual is an attorney, this is not true in the United States and they may not provide the same services that an attorney or accredited representative does.

A notario may NOT:

- Give you legal advice on what immigration benefit you may apply for or what to say in an immigration interview
- Hold him or herself out as qualified in legal matters or in immigration and citizenship procedure

If you are seeking help with immigration questions, you should be very careful before paying money to a non-attorney.

How to Protect Yourself:

- **DO NOT** sign blank applications, petitions or other papers.
- **DO NOT** sign documents that you do not understand.
- **DO NOT** sign documents that contain false statements or inaccurate information.
- **DO NOT** let anyone keep your original documents.
- **DO NOT** make payments to a representative without getting a receipt.
- **DO NOT** pay more than a nominal fee to non-attorneys or make payments online.
- **DO** obtain copies of all documents prepared or submitted for you.
- **DO** verify an attorney's or accredited representative's eligibility to represent you.
- **DO** report any representative's unlawful activity to USCIS, RI Bar Associations and/or the Rhode Island Attorney General.



Sojourner House
committed to ending domestic violence



Immigration & Refugee Services
DIOCESE OF PROVIDENCE



DORCAS INTERNATIONAL
INSTITUTE OF RHODE ISLAND