

TIME EXTENSION FOR THE 2001 MIGRATORY REGULARIZATION PROGRAM

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On August 31, 2001, the Federal Government published a decree on the Official Gazette which modifies the 2001 Migratory Regularization Program announced just last March by the National Immigration Institute. The intention of this new decree is to extend the term previously granted –now doing so until October 31, 2001– to non-Mexican citizens living in Mexico without authorization, to reorganize their migratory status according to the Program's Guidelines.

For those of us who are unfamiliar with these new measures and benefits, the Migratory Regularization Program (MRP) has its goal set on benefiting all those foreign citizens who entered the country prior to January 1st, 2000, have no proper migratory documents or authorizations, and are in both of the following situations:

- 1) Has a job opportunity or possibility of developing a lawful and honest activity; and
- 2) Proves to have a family liaison with a Mexican citizen or any foreign citizen legally established in Mexico.

An additional period of 90 days will be granted if requested to propose and exhibit documents that support the petition and demonstrate accomplishments of the prerequisites. Once the petition is filed, and a filing system has been assigned and completely organized for the petitioner, the National Immigration Institute will provide a formal resolution, responding and according to the request. On such situation, a Non-Immigrant authorization could be granted if proper requirements are met.

There are some circumstances under which foreign citizens are discouraged from filing a petition for migratory regularization under the MRP; however, some other suggestions or options should be available. Those are non-immigrants who:

1. Have entered the country prior to January 1st, 2000;
2. Are being subject to a criminal process;

3. Are restricted from entering the country due to a former migratory resolution;
4. Are considered dangerous for national economic purposes;
5. Have infringed Mexican laws or have negative backgrounds overseas; and
6. Are not physically or mentally healthy according to sanitary officials.

Under all circumstances we highly recommend proper counseling for any petition, including from the National Immigration Institute at their Regional Offices on different States. Only proper guidance will allow for an effective request that assures the ideal non-immigrant authorization and resolution for legal certainty and convenience.