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Background Checks Cause Delays with USCIS

The USCIS performs background checks on every petition or application filed. The type of background check conducted depends on the type of petition or application filed, but typically involves the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Recently, the USCIS has reported that the processing of several petitions and applications is delayed due to pending background checks.

Processing Times for Rescheduling Fingerprint Appointments and Interviews

A new memorandum from the Associate Director of Domestic Operations at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), Michael Aytes, provides guidance to all USCIS officers regarding case processing timelines. The memo highlights their efforts to ensure that cases are not pending for long periods of time. It states that if a person requests to reschedule their fingerprinting, a new fingerprinting appointment should be scheduled within 14 calendar days of the request. Further, while attending an interview is very important, sometimes it is necessary to reschedule the interview where circumstances beyond the applicant's control require rescheduling. In such cases, it is the goal of the USCIS to reschedule an interview within 11 weeks of the original interview date.

USCIS Launches new Website

On November 1, 2006, the USCIS website (www.uscis.gov) launched a new website. The USCIS website is one of the most visited websites of the U.S. government, with an average of 135,000 visitors per day and nearly 6 million visitors per month. The new website is intended to be easier to use.