



Interoffice Memorandum

To: Service Center Directors
Regional Directors
District Directors (Including Foreign)
Office of Communications
Office of Citizenship

From: William R. Yates /S/
Associate Director, Domestic Operations
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Date: September 19, 2005

Re: Fee Waivers for Hurricane Katrina Victims

Hurricane Katrina has caused economic duress and loss for many USCIS customers who resided in areas affected by the disaster at the time of the hurricane. This includes loss of housing, employment, and personal documentation, such as Employment Authorization documents, Legal Permanent Resident cards and Naturalization certificates. As a result, we anticipate an increase in applications for replacement documents accompanied by a corresponding increase in fee waiver requests. This memorandum serves to advise the field to adhere to the current fee waiver process guidelines and respond generously to those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Current fee waiver guidance states that, “[a] fee waiver request may be granted when it has been established to the satisfaction of the USCIS [Supervisory] Officer with jurisdiction over the request that the individual is unable to pay the fee.” The guidance further states that an applicant for a fee waiver must submit an affidavit or unsworn declaration pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, and as required by 8 CFR 103.7(c), and *may* submit additional documentation to provide proof of the “inability to pay.” (Memorandum, Yates, William R., “Field Guidance on Granting Fee Waivers Pursuant to 8 CFR 103.7(c),” March 4, 2004, hereinafter “Fee Waiver Guidance”). This notice serves to advise the field to be sensitive to the fact that Hurricane Katrina victims may in fact have no documentation to submit in addition to an affidavit or unsworn declaration to prove their “inability to pay.” Therefore, in such cases, it would be reasonable to grant a Hurricane Katrina victim’s fee waiver request for replacement of documents based only on the applicant’s affidavit or unsworn declaration. The affidavit or unsworn declaration should include the applicant’s address with zip code as of August 29, 2005, which the USCIS Officer should cross-check against the attached United States Postal

Service list of affected areas by zip code to confirm that the applicant lives (or on August 29 lived) in an affected area.

Offices should be especially responsive to fee waiver requests for the following document replacement forms (or other immigration forms needed to apply for replacement documents that can be used to establish employment eligibility under 8 CFR, Part 274a):

- I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card
- I-102, Application for Replacement/Initial Nonimmigrant Arrival/Departure Record
- I-131, Application for Travel Document
- N-565, Application for Replacement Naturalization Citizenship Document
- I-695, Application for Replacement Employment Authorization or Temporary Residence Card
- I-765, Application for Employment Authorization
- I-824, Application for Action on an Approved Application or Petition

Please note that USCIS does not waive the fee for collection of biometrics, which is required with the filing of a Form I-90.¹ Consistent with the current Fee Waiver Guidance, USCIS Officers should consider fee waiver requests for other petitions and applications filed by Hurricane Katrina victims on an individual basis. Nothing in this guidance precludes a person from seeking any benefit not described above, including applications for student reinstatement, from applying for a fee waiver pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 103.7(c). In addition, the granting of a fee waiver does not affect the adjudication of the underlying application. In some cases, of course, a person's financial means may be relevant as to whether the underlying benefit should be granted.

Questions regarding this memorandum may be directed to Shannon Wheeler, Office of Program and Regulations Development, through appropriate channels.

Attachment

¹ The only exception to this rule is when the biometrics are required in connection with the replacement of a mis-delivered card, or the correction of a mistake by USCIS in creation of a card, containing the biometrics, as set forth in recent guidance concerning certain I-90 filings.

**United State Postal Service
Hurricane Katrina Impacted
Zip Codes**

City	State	Zipcode
GAINESTOWN	AL	36540
ATMORE	AL	36502
AXIS	AL	36505
BAY MINETTE	AL	36507
BAYOU LA BATRE	AL	36509
BON SECOUR	AL	36511
BUCKS	AL	36512
CALVERT	AL	36513
JACKSON	AL	36545
CHATOM	AL	36518
CHUNCHULA	AL	36521
CITRONELLE	AL	36522
CODEN	AL	36523
COFFEEVILLE	AL	36524
CREOLA	AL	36525
DAPHNE	AL	36526
DAUPHIN ISLAND	AL	36528
DEER PARK	AL	36529
ELBERTA	AL	36530
FAIRHOPE	AL	36532
FOLEY	AL	36535
FRANKVILLE	AL	36538
FRUITDALE	AL	36539
GAINESTOWN	AL	36540
GRAND BAY	AL	36541
GULF SHORES	AL	36542
HUXFORD	AL	36543
IRVINGTON	AL	36544
JACKSON	AL	36545
LEROY	AL	36548
LILLIAN	AL	36549
LITTLE RIVER	AL	36550
LOXLEY	AL	36551
MAGNOLIA SPRINGS	AL	36555
MALCOLM	AL	36556
MC INTOSH	AL	36553
MILLRY	AL	36558
MONTROSE	AL	36559
MOUNT VERNON	AL	36560
ORANGE BEACH	AL	36561
PERDIDO	AL	36562
POINT CLEAR	AL	36564
ROBERTSDALE	AL	36567
SAINT ELMO	AL	36568
SAINT STEPHENS	AL	36569
SARALAND	AL	36571
SATSUMA	AL	36572
SEMMES	AL	36575
SILVERHILL	AL	36576
SPANISH FORT	AL	36527
STAPLETON	AL	36578
STOCKTON	AL	36579

**United State Postal Service
Hurricane Katrina Impacted
Zip Codes**

City	State	Zipcode
SUMMERDALE	AL	36580
SUNFLOWER	AL	36581
THEODORE	AL	36582
TIBBIE	AL	36583
VINEGAR BEND	AL	36584
WAGARVILLE	AL	36585
WILMER	AL	36587
MOBILE	AL	36608
MOBILE	AL	36605
MOBILE	AL	36606
MOBILE	AL	36611
MOBILE	AL	36609
MOBILE	AL	36607
EIGHT MILE	AL	36613
MOBILE	AL	36605
MOBILE	AL	36602
MOBILE	AL	36606
MOBILE	AL	36604
MOBILE	AL	36619
MOBILE	AL	36601
MOBILE	AL	36601
MOBILE	AL	36602
MOBILE	AL	36608
MOBILE	AL	36610
MOBILE	AL	36608
MOBILE	AL	36606
MOBILE	AL	36619
MOBILE	AL	36618
MOBILE	AL	36688
MOBILE	AL	36601
BELLAMY	AL	36901
BUTLER	AL	36904
LISMAN	AL	36912
CUBA	AL	36907
GILBERTOWN	AL	36908
JACHIN	AL	36910
LISMAN	AL	36912
MELVIN	AL	36913
NEEDHAM	AL	36915
PENNINGTON	AL	36916
SILAS	AL	36919
TOXEY	AL	36921
WARD	AL	36922
YORK	AL	36925
BAILEY	MS	39320
BUCKATUNNA	MS	39322
PHILADELPHIA	MS	39350
CHOCTAW	MS	39350
CHUNKY	MS	39323
CLARA	MS	39324
COLLINSVILLE	MS	39325
DALEVILLE	MS	39326

**United State Postal Service
Hurricane Katrina Impacted
Zip Codes**

City	State	Zipcode
DE KALB	MS	39328
DECATUR	MS	39327
ENTERPRISE	MS	39330
HICKORY	MS	39332
LAUDERDALE	MS	39335
LAWRENCE	MS	39336
LITTLE ROCK	MS	39337
LOUIN	MS	39338
LOUISVILLE	MS	39339
MACON	MS	39341
MERIDIAN	MS	39301
MARION	MS	39342
SHUBUTA	MS	39360
MERIDIAN	MS	39301
MERIDIAN	MS	39309
NEWTON	MS	39345
MERIDIAN	MS	39305
NOXAPATER	MS	39346
PACHUTA	MS	39347
PAULDING	MS	39348
PHILADELPHIA	MS	39350
PORTERVILLE	MS	39352
PRESTON	MS	39354
QUITMAN	MS	39355
ROSE HILL	MS	39356
SCOOBA	MS	39358
SEBASTOPOL	MS	39359
SHUBUTA	MS	39360
SHUQUALAK	MS	39361
STATE LINE	MS	39362
STONEWALL	MS	39363
TOOMSUBA	MS	39364
UNION	MS	39365
VOSSBURG	MS	39366
WAYNESBORO	MS	39367
MERIDIAN	MS	39307
HATTIESBURG	MS	39406
HATTIESBURG	MS	39402
BASSFIELD	MS	39421
BAY SPRINGS	MS	39422
BEAUMONT	MS	39423
BROOKLYN	MS	39425
CARRIERE	MS	39426
PICAYUNE	MS	39466
CARSON	MS	39427
LAUREL	MS	39440
COLLINS	MS	39428
COLUMBIA	MS	39429
HATTIESBURG	MS	39401
EASTABUCHIE	MS	39436
ELLISVILLE	MS	39437
FOXWORTH	MS	39483

**United State Postal Service
Hurricane Katrina Impacted
Zip Codes**

City	State	Zipcode
HATTIESBURG	MS	39402
HEIDELBERG	MS	39439
LAUREL	MS	39440
LEAKESVILLE	MS	39451
LUCEDALE	MS	39452
LUMBERTON	MS	39455
HATTIESBURG	MS	39402
MC LAIN	MS	39456
MC NEILL	MS	39457
MOSELLE	MS	39459
MOSS	MS	39460
NEELY	MS	39461
NEW AUGUSTA	MS	39462
NICHOLSON	MS	39463
NICHOLSON	MS	39463
OVETT	MS	39464
PETAL	MS	39465
PICAYUNE	MS	39466
PICAYUNE	MS	39466
PICAYUNE	MS	39466
POPLARVILLE	MS	39470
PRENTISS	MS	39474
PURVIS	MS	39475
RICHTON	MS	39476
SANDERSVILLE	MS	39477
SANDY HOOK	MS	39478
SEMINARY	MS	39479
SOSO	MS	39480
STRINGER	MS	39481
SUMRALL	MS	39482
HATTIESBURG	MS	39402
HATTIESBURG	MS	39406
BAY SAINT LOUIS	MS	39520
BILOXI	MS	39530
DIAMONDHEAD	MS	39525
GULFPORT	MS	39501
GULFPORT	MS	39507
PASCAGOULA	MS	39567
ESCATAWPA	MS	39552
GAUTIER	MS	39553
GULFPORT	MS	39503
GULFPORT	MS	39503
GULFPORT	MS	39501
HURLEY	MS	39555
BILOXI	MS	39534
BILOXI	MS	39530
KILN	MS	39556
MOSS POINT	MS	39563
LAKESHORE	MS	39558
LONG BEACH	MS	39560
GULFPORT	MS	39503
MC HENRY	MS	39561

**United State Postal Service
Hurricane Katrina Impacted
Zip Codes**

City	State	Zipcode
MOSS POINT	MS	39563
DIBERVILLE	MS	39540
OCEAN SPRINGS	MS	39564
PASCAGOULA	MS	39567
PASS CHRISTIAN	MS	39571
PEARLINGTON	MS	39572
PERKINSTON	MS	39573
SAUCIER	MS	39574
BAY SAINT LOUIS	MS	39520
STENNIS SPACE CENTER	MS	39529
BILOXI	MS	39534
BILOXI	MS	39530
GULFPORT	MS	39501
GULFPORT	MS	39501
OCEAN SPRINGS	MS	39565
WAVELAND	MS	39576
BILOXI	MS	39531
WIGGINS	MS	39577
BOGUE CHITTO	MS	39629
BROOKHAVEN	MS	39601
BUDE	MS	39630
CENTREVILLE	MS	39631
CHATAWA	MS	39632
CROSBY	MS	39633
FERNWOOD	MS	39635
GLOSTER	MS	39638
JAYESS	MS	39641
KOKOMO	MS	39643
LIBERTY	MS	39645
MAGNOLIA	MS	39652
MC CALL CREEK	MS	39647
MCCOMB	MS	39648
MCCOMB	MS	39648
MEADVILLE	MS	39653
MONTICELLO	MS	39654
OAK VALE	MS	39656
OSYKA	MS	39657
ROXIE	MS	39661
RUTH	MS	39662
SILVER CREEK	MS	39663
SMITHDALE	MS	39664
SONTAG	MS	39665
SUMMIT	MS	39666
TYLERTOWN	MS	39667
UNION CHURCH	MS	39668
BROOKHAVEN	MS	39601
WOODVILLE	MS	39669
AMA	LA	70031
ARABI	LA	70032
BARATARIA	LA	70036
BELLE CHASSE	LA	70037
BOOTHVILLE	LA	70038

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Zip Codes**

City	State	Zipcode
BOUTTE	LA	70039
BRAITHWAITE	LA	70040
WESTWEGO	LA	70094
BURAS	LA	70041
CHALMETTE	LA	70043
DES ALLEMANDS	LA	70030
DESTREHAN	LA	70047
EDGARD	LA	70049
EMPIRE	LA	70050
GARYVILLE	LA	70051
GRAMERCY	LA	70052
GRETNA	LA	70053
HAHNVILLE	LA	70057
HARVEY	LA	70058
METAIRIE	LA	70001
KENNER	LA	70062
LA PLACE	LA	70068
LAFITTE	LA	70067
LULING	LA	70070
LUTCHER	LA	70071
MARRERO	LA	70072
MERAUX	LA	70075
METAIRIE	LA	70002
GARYVILLE	LA	70051
NEW SARPY	LA	70078
NORCO	LA	70079
KENNER	LA	70065
PARADIS	LA	70080
METAIRIE	LA	70003
VENICE	LA	70091
POINTE A LA HACHE	LA	70082
PORT SULPHUR	LA	70083
RESERVE	LA	70084
SAINT BERNARD	LA	70085
SAINT JAMES	LA	70086
SAINT ROSE	LA	70087
SAINT ROSE	LA	70087
METAIRIE	LA	70005
VACHERIE	LA	70090
VENICE	LA	70091
VIOLET	LA	70092
WESTWEGO	LA	70094
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70141
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70126
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70117
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70118
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70119
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70126
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70123
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70122
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70123
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70130

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Zip Codes**

City	State	Zipcode
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70123
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70130
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70127
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70124
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70113
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70118
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70129
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70119
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70113
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70113
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70141
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70119
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70114
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70118
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70148
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70115
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70113
NEW ORLEANS	LA	70130
AMELIA	LA	70340
BELLE ROSE	LA	70341
BERWICK	LA	70342
BOURG	LA	70343
CHAUVIN	LA	70344
HOUMA	LA	70363
HOUMA	LA	70360
HOUMA	LA	70360
HOUMA	LA	70360
CUT OFF	LA	70345
DONALDSONVILLE	LA	70346
MORGAN CITY	LA	70380
DULAC	LA	70353
GALLIANO	LA	70354
GIBSON	LA	70356
GOLDEN MEADOW	LA	70357
GRAND ISLE	LA	70358
GRAY	LA	70359
HOUMA	LA	70360
HOUMA	LA	70360
HOUMA	LA	70360
KRAEMER	LA	70371
LABADIEVILLE	LA	70372
LAROSE	LA	70373
LOCKPORT	LA	70374
MATHEWS	LA	70375
MONTEGUT	LA	70377
MORGAN CITY	LA	70380
NAPOLEONVILLE	LA	70390
THIBODAUX	LA	70310
PAINCOURTVILLE	LA	70391
PATTERSON	LA	70392
PIERRE PART	LA	70339
PLATTENVILLE	LA	70393

**United State Postal Service
Hurricane Katrina Impacted
Zip Codes**

City	State	Zipcode
RACELAND	LA	70394
SCHRIEVER	LA	70395
THIBODAUX	LA	70301
ABITA SPRINGS	LA	70420
AMITE	LA	70422
ANGIE	LA	70426
BOGALUSA	LA	70427
BUSH	LA	70431
COVINGTON	LA	70433
FLUKER	LA	70436
FOLSOM	LA	70437
FRANKLINTON	LA	70438
GREENSBURG	LA	70441
HAMMOND	LA	70401
HUSSER	LA	70442
INDEPENDENCE	LA	70443
KENTWOOD	LA	70444
LACOMBE	LA	70445
LORANGER	LA	70446
MADISONVILLE	LA	70447
MANDEVILLE	LA	70471
MAUREPAS	LA	70449
MOUNT HERMON	LA	70450
NATALBANY	LA	70451
SLIDELL	LA	70458
SLIDELL	LA	70461
PEARL RIVER	LA	70452
PINE GROVE	LA	70453
PONCHATOULA	LA	70454
ROBERT	LA	70455
ROSELAND	LA	70456
SAINT BENEDICT	LA	70457
SLIDELL	LA	70458
HAMMOND	LA	70401
HAMMOND	LA	70402
SPRINGFIELD	LA	70462
SUN	LA	70463
TALISHEEK	LA	70464
TANGIPAHOA	LA	70465
TICKFAW	LA	70466
ANGIE	LA	70426
SLIDELL	LA	70460