

the list of direct mail sites for filing Form N-400, Application for Naturalization. Applicants residing within these districts and suboffices will mail their Form N-400 directly to the designated INS Service Center for processing. This expansion is intended to improve INS service to the public by reducing processing times for Form N-400, limiting in-person visits to local offices, and improving the quality of case status information provided to the public.

**DATES:** This notice is effective February 20, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Arroyo, Adjudications Officer, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Office of Naturalization Operations, 801 I Street, NW., Room 935E, Washington, DC 20536, telephone, (202) 514-8247.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Direct Mail Program, certain applicants and petitioners for immigration benefits mail applications and petitions directly to an INS service center for processing instead of submitting them to a local INS office. The purposes and strategy of the Direct Mail Program have been discussed in previous rulemaking and notices (see, e.g., 59 FR 33903 and 59 FR 33985).

The Service is continuing expansion of the Direct Mail Program as applied to Form N-400 by adding the New Orleans District Office, and the Louisville and Memphis Suboffices, as Direct Mail sites.

#### Where To File

Effective February 20, 1998, applicants for naturalization residing within the jurisdiction of the New Orleans District Office and the Louisville and Memphis Suboffices must mail the Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, directly to the Texas Service Center at the following address; USINS Texas Service Center, Attention: N-400 Unit, P.O. Box 851204, Mesquite, Texas 75185-1204.

#### Transition

During the first 60 days following the effective date of this notice, the New Orleans District Office and the Louisville and Memphis Suboffices will forward in a timely fashion to the Texas Service Center any Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, which has been inadvertently filed with the respective district or suboffice. Applicants will be provided a notice at the time of filing at the district or suboffice advising them their application is being forwarded to the service center for initial processing. The applicant will receive written

notification from their respective district or suboffice of the date, place, and time of their interview for naturalization. When applications are forwarded from the district or suboffices, they will be receipted and filed when they arrive at the service center. After the 60-day transition period, applicants attempting to file Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, at the offices listed above will be directed to mail their application directly to the Texas Service Center for processing.

Dated: February 18, 1998.

**Doris Meissner,**

*Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

### Immigration and Naturalization Service

[INS No. 1885-97]

#### Direct Mail Program for the San Francisco District Office and the Fresno, Oakland, Sacramento and San Jose Suboffices; Form N-400

**AGENCY:** Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS or Service) is expanding its Direct Mail Program to include the San Francisco District Office and the Fresno, Oakland, Sacramento and San Jose Suboffices on the current list of direct mail sites for filing Form N-400, Application for Naturalization. Applicants residing within these districts and suboffices will mail their Form N-400 directly to the designated INS service center for processing. This expansion is intended to improve INS service to the public by reducing processing times for Form N-400, limiting in-person visits to local offices, and improving the quality of case status information provided to the public.

**DATES:** This notice is effective February 20, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Arroyo, Adjudications Officer, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Office of Naturalization Operations, 801 I Street, NW., Room 935E, Washington, DC 20536, telephone, (202) 514-8247.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Direct Mail Program, certain applicants and petitioners for immigration benefits mail their applications and petitions directly to an INS service center for

processing instead of submitting them to a local INS office. The purposes and strategy of the Direct Mail Program have been discussed in detail in previous rulemaking and notices (see, e.g., 50 FR 33903 and 59 FR 33985).

The Service is continuing expansion of the Direct Mail Program as applied to Form N-400 by adding the San Francisco District Office and the Fresno, Oakland, Sacramento, and San Jose Suboffices as Direct Mail sites.

#### Where To File

Effective February 20, 1998, applicants for naturalization residing within the jurisdiction of the San Francisco District Office and the Fresno, Oakland, Sacramento, and San Jose Suboffices must mail the Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, directly to the California Service Center at the following address: USINS California Service Center, Attention: N-400 Unit, P.O. Box 10400, Laguna Nigel, California 92607-0400.

#### Transition

During the first 60 days following the effective date of this notice, the San Francisco District Office and the Fresno, Oakland, Sacramento, and San Jose Suboffices will forward in a timely fashion to the California Service Center any Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, which has been inadvertently filed with the respective district or suboffice. Applicants will be provided a notice at the time of filing at the district or suboffice advising them their application is being forwarded to the Service Center for initial processing. The applicant will receive written notification from their respective district or suboffice of the date, place, and time of their interview for naturalization. When applications are forwarded from the district or suboffices, they will be receipted and filed when they arrive at the Service Center. After the 60-day transition period, applicants attempting to file Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, at the offices listed above will be directed to mail their application directly to the California Service Center for processing.

Dated: February 13, 1998.

**Doris Meissner,**

*Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service.*

[FR Doc. 98-4345 Filed 2-19-98; 8:45 am]

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