

Section 374(c) of div. C of Pub. L. 104-208 provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a)(2) [amending this section] shall be effective as if included in the enactment of section 224(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994 [Pub. L. 103-416].”

Amendment by section 671(b)(13) of Pub. L. 104-208 effective as if included in the enactment of the Immigration and Nationality Technical Corrections Act of 1994, Pub. L. 103-416, see section 671(b)(14) of Pub. L. 104-208, set out as a note under section 1101 of this title.

Amendment by section 671(c)(5), (6) of Pub. L. 104-208 effective as if included in the enactment of subtitle A of title IV of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, Pub. L. 104-132, see section 671(c)(7) of Pub. L. 104-208, set out as a note under section 1189 of this title.

Section 442(d) of Pub. L. 104-132 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 1105a of this title] shall become effective no later than 60 days after the publication by the Attorney General of implementing regulations that shall be published on or before January 1, 1997.”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1994 AMENDMENTS

Amendment by section 224(a) of Pub. L. 103-416 applicable to all aliens whose adjudication of guilt or guilty plea is entered in the record after Oct. 25, 1994, see section 224(c) of Pub. L. 103-416, set out as a note under section 1252 of this title.

Section 130004(d) of Pub. L. 103-322 provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 1105a of this title] shall apply to all aliens against whom deportation proceedings are initiated after the date of enactment of this Act [Sept. 13, 1994].”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1990 AMENDMENT

Section 506(b) of Pub. L. 101-649 provided that: “The amendment made by subsection (a) [amending this section] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 29, 1990].”

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section 7347(c) of Pub. L. 100-690 provided that: “The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) [enacting this section and amending section 1105a of this title] shall apply in the case of any alien convicted of an aggravated felony on or after the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 18, 1988].”

#### ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of this title.

#### REFERENCES TO ORDER OF REMOVAL DEEMED TO INCLUDE ORDER OF EXCLUSION AND DEPORTATION

For purposes of carrying out this chapter, any reference in law to an order of removal is deemed to include a reference to an order of exclusion and deportation or an order of deportation, see section 309(d)(2) of Pub. L. 104-208, set out in an Effective Date of 1996 Amendments note under section 1101 of this title.

#### EXPANDED SPECIAL REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS

Section 130007 of Pub. L. 103-322, as amended by Pub. L. 104-208, div. C, title III, § 308(g)(5)(F), (10)(F), title VI, § 671(a)(6), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-623, 3009-625, 3009-721, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Attorney General may expand the program authorized by section[s] 238(a)(3) and 239(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 U.S.C. 1228(a)(3), 1229(d)] to ensure that such aliens are immediately deportable upon their release from incarceration.

“(b) DETENTION AND REMOVAL OF CRIMINAL ALIENS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Attorney General may—

“(1) construct or contract for the construction of 2 Immigration and Naturalization Service Processing Centers to detain criminal aliens; and

“(2) provide for the detention and removal of such aliens.

“(c) REPORT.—By September 30, 1996, and September 30, 1998 the Attorney General shall report to the Congress on the programs referred to in subsections (a) and (b). The report shall include an evaluation of the programs, an outcome-based measurement of performance, and an analysis of the cost effectiveness of the additional resources provided under this Act [see Tables for classification].

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(1) \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 1995;

“(2) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 1996;

“(3) \$49,000,000 for fiscal year 1997; and

“(4) \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1998.”

## § 1229. Initiation of removal proceedings

### (a) Notice to appear

#### (1) In general

In removal proceedings under section 1229a of this title, written notice (in this section referred to as a “notice to appear”) shall be given in person to the alien (or, if personal service is not practicable, through service by mail to the alien or to the alien’s counsel of record, if any) specifying the following:

(A) The nature of the proceedings against the alien.

(B) The legal authority under which the proceedings are conducted.

(C) The acts or conduct alleged to be in violation of law.

(D) The charges against the alien and the statutory provisions alleged to have been violated.

(E) The alien may be represented by counsel and the alien will be provided (i) a period of time to secure counsel under subsection (b)(1) of this section and (ii) a current list of counsel prepared under subsection (b)(2) of this section.

(F)(i) The requirement that the alien must immediately provide (or have provided) the Attorney General with a written record of an address and telephone number (if any) at which the alien may be contacted respecting proceedings under section 1229a of this title.

(ii) The requirement that the alien must provide the Attorney General immediately with a written record of any change of the alien’s address or telephone number.

(iii) The consequences under section 1229a(b)(5) of this title of failure to provide address and telephone information pursuant to this subparagraph.

(G)(i) The time and place at which the proceedings will be held.

(ii) The consequences under section 1229a(b)(5) of this title of the failure, except under exceptional circumstances, to appear at such proceedings.

### (2) Notice of change in time or place of proceedings

#### (A) In general

In removal proceedings under section 1229a of this title, in the case of any change or

postponement in the time and place of such proceedings, subject to subparagraph (B) a written notice shall be given in person to the alien (or, if personal service is not practicable, through service by mail to the alien or to the alien's counsel of record, if any) specifying—

(i) the new time or place of the proceedings, and

(ii) the consequences under section 1229a(b)(5) of this title of failing, except under exceptional circumstances, to attend such proceedings.

**(B) Exception**

In the case of an alien not in detention, a written notice shall not be required under this paragraph if the alien has failed to provide the address required under paragraph (1)(F).

**(3) Central address files**

The Attorney General shall create a system to record and preserve on a timely basis notices of addresses and telephone numbers (and changes) provided under paragraph (1)(F).

**(b) Securing of counsel**

**(1) In general**

In order that an alien be permitted the opportunity to secure counsel before the first hearing date in proceedings under section 1229a of this title, the hearing date shall not be scheduled earlier than 10 days after the service of the notice to appear, unless the alien requests in writing an earlier hearing date.

**(2) Current lists of counsel**

The Attorney General shall provide for lists (updated not less often than quarterly) of persons who have indicated their availability to represent pro bono aliens in proceedings under section 1229a of this title. Such lists shall be provided under subsection (a)(1)(E) of this section and otherwise made generally available.

**(3) Rule of construction**

Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prevent the Attorney General from proceeding against an alien pursuant to section 1229a of this title if the time period described in paragraph (1) has elapsed and the alien has failed to secure counsel.

**(c) Service by mail**

Service by mail under this section shall be sufficient if there is proof of attempted delivery to the last address provided by the alien in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(F) of this section.

**(d) Prompt initiation of removal**

(1) In the case of an alien who is convicted of an offense which makes the alien deportable, the Attorney General shall begin any removal proceeding as expeditiously as possible after the date of the conviction.

(2) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to create any substantive or procedural right or benefit that is legally enforceable by any party against the United States or its agencies or officers or any other person.

**(e) Certification of compliance with restrictions on disclosure**

**(1) In general**

In cases where an enforcement action leading to a removal proceeding was taken against an alien at any of the locations specified in paragraph (2), the Notice to Appear shall include a statement that the provisions of section 1367 of this title have been complied with.

**(2) Locations**

The locations specified in this paragraph are as follows:

(A) At a domestic violence shelter, a rape crisis center, supervised visitation center, family justice center, a victim services, or victim services provider, or a community-based organization.

(B) At a courthouse (or in connection with that appearance of the alien at a courthouse) if the alien is appearing in connection with a protection order case, child custody case, or other civil or criminal case relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, or stalking in which the alien has been battered or subject to extreme cruelty or if the alien is described in subparagraph (T) or (U) of section 1101(a)(15) of this title.

(June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title II, ch. 4, §239, as added Pub. L. 104-208, div. C, title III, §304(a)(3), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-587; amended Pub. L. 109-162, title VIII, §825(c)(1), Jan. 5, 2006, 119 Stat. 3065; Pub. L. 109-271, §6(d), Aug. 12, 2006, 120 Stat. 763.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 1229, act June 27, 1952, ch. 477, title II, ch. 4, §239, 66 Stat. 203, as amended, which related to designation of ports of entry for aliens arriving by aircraft, was renumbered section 234 of act June 27, 1952, by Pub. L. 104-208, div. C, title III, §304(a)(1), Sept. 30, 1996, 110 Stat. 3009-587, and was transferred to section 1224 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 109-162 added subsec. (e). Subsec. (e)(2)(B). Pub. L. 109-271 substituted “(U)” for “(V)”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 109-162, title VIII, §825(c)(2), Jan. 5, 2006, 119 Stat. 3065, provided that: “The amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 5, 2006] and shall apply to apprehensions occurring on or after such date.”

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective, with certain transitional provisions, on the first day of the first month beginning more than 180 days after Sept. 30, 1996, see section 309 of Pub. L. 104-208, set out as an Effective Date of 1996 Amendments note under section 1101 of this title.

ABOLITION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For abolition of Immigration and Naturalization Service, transfer of functions, and treatment of related references, see note set out under section 1551 of this title.

**§ 1229a. Removal proceedings****(a) Proceeding****(1) In general**

An immigration judge shall conduct proceedings for deciding the inadmissibility or deportability of an alien.

**(2) Charges**

An alien placed in proceedings under this section may be charged with any applicable ground of inadmissibility under section 1182(a) of this title or any applicable ground of deportability under section 1227(a) of this title.

**(3) Exclusive procedures**

Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, a proceeding under this section shall be the sole and exclusive procedure for determining whether an alien may be admitted to the United States or, if the alien has been so admitted, removed from the United States. Nothing in this section shall affect proceedings conducted pursuant to section 1228 of this title.

**(b) Conduct of proceeding****(1) Authority of immigration judge**

The immigration judge shall administer oaths, receive evidence, and interrogate, examine, and cross-examine the alien and any witnesses. The immigration judge may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and presentation of evidence. The immigration judge shall have authority (under regulations prescribed by the Attorney General) to sanction by civil money penalty any action (or inaction) in contempt of the judge's proper exercise of authority under this chapter.

**(2) Form of proceeding****(A) In general**

The proceeding may take place—

- (i) in person,
- (ii) where agreed to by the parties, in the absence of the alien,
- (iii) through video conference, or
- (iv) subject to subparagraph (B), through telephone conference.

**(B) Consent required in certain cases**

An evidentiary hearing on the merits may only be conducted through a telephone conference with the consent of the alien involved after the alien has been advised of the right to proceed in person or through video conference.

**(3) Presence of alien**

If it is impracticable by reason of an alien's mental incompetency for the alien to be present at the proceeding, the Attorney General shall prescribe safeguards to protect the rights and privileges of the alien.

**(4) Alien's rights in proceeding**

In proceedings under this section, under regulations of the Attorney General—

- (A) the alien shall have the privilege of being represented, at no expense to the Government, by counsel of the alien's choosing who is authorized to practice in such proceedings,

(B) the alien shall have a reasonable opportunity to examine the evidence against the alien, to present evidence on the alien's own behalf, and to cross-examine witnesses presented by the Government but these rights shall not entitle the alien to examine such national security information as the Government may proffer in opposition to the alien's admission to the United States or to an application by the alien for discretionary relief under this chapter, and

(C) a complete record shall be kept of all testimony and evidence produced at the proceeding.

**(5) Consequences of failure to appear****(A) In general**

Any alien who, after written notice required under paragraph (1) or (2) of section 1229(a) of this title has been provided to the alien or the alien's counsel of record, does not attend a proceeding under this section, shall be ordered removed in absentia if the Service establishes by clear, unequivocal, and convincing evidence that the written notice was so provided and that the alien is removable (as defined in subsection (e)(2) of this section). The written notice by the Attorney General shall be considered sufficient for purposes of this subparagraph if provided at the most recent address provided under section 1229(a)(1)(F) of this title.

**(B) No notice if failure to provide address information**

No written notice shall be required under subparagraph (A) if the alien has failed to provide the address required under section 1229(a)(1)(F) of this title.

**(C) Rescission of order**

Such an order may be rescinded only—

- (i) upon a motion to reopen filed within 180 days after the date of the order of removal if the alien demonstrates that the failure to appear was because of exceptional circumstances (as defined in subsection (e)(1) of this section), or
- (ii) upon a motion to reopen filed at any time if the alien demonstrates that the alien did not receive notice in accordance with paragraph (1) or (2) of section 1229(a) of this title or the alien demonstrates that the alien was in Federal or State custody and the failure to appear was through no fault of the alien.

The filing of the motion to reopen described in clause (i) or (ii) shall stay the removal of the alien pending disposition of the motion by the immigration judge.

**(D) Effect on judicial review**

Any petition for review under section 1252 of this title of an order entered in absentia under this paragraph shall (except in cases described in section 1252(b)(5) of this title) be confined to (i) the validity of the notice provided to the alien, (ii) the reasons for the alien's not attending the proceeding, and (iii) whether or not the alien is removable.