

# Avoiding Immigration Services Scams



consumer *brief*

The New Jersey Office of the Attorney General and the Division of Consumer Affairs have joined the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the Board of Immigration Appeals and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) in an effort to identify and fight immigration services scams.

- Consumers seeking to learn whether an individual or organization is authorized to perform these services can visit [www.USCIS.gov](http://www.USCIS.gov) or call the USCIS at 800-375-5283.

*Note: The New Jersey Office of the Attorney General and the Division of Consumer Affairs cannot represent or assist individuals with immigration-related issues.*

## FALSE CLAIMS CAN LEAD TO DIRE CONSEQUENCES

Unscrupulous individuals pretending to be “immigration consultants,” “notarios” or “attorneys,” are falsely claiming they can provide immigration services to targeted immigrants with limited English skills. The scammers charge hundreds of dollars to process phony immigration documents, and then fail to provide the services for which they have been paid. As a result, immigrants may:

- Face financial losses they cannot afford;
- Lose irreplaceable documents such as birth certificates and passports;
- Have their immigration status harmed and possibly face deportation due to documents being filed incorrectly, or not being filed at all.

## PLEASE REMEMBER...

- Only attorneys and certain other accredited representatives authorized by the USCIS are allowed to prepare legal documents such as immigration forms, give advice on legal matters, or represent clients in a legal proceeding.



800-242-5846 › New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs  
[www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov](http://www.NJConsumerAffairs.gov)

