

alien possesses exceptional ability in the relevant field.

(f) *No offer of employment required.* Neither an offer of employment nor a labor certification is required for this classification.

(g) *Consultation with other United States Government agencies.* USCIS may consult with other United States Government agencies, such as the Departments of Defense and Energy or other relevant agencies with expertise in nuclear, chemical, biological, or other high-technology defense projects. USCIS may, in its discretion, accept a favorable report from such agencies as evidence in addition to the documentation prescribed under paragraph (e) of this section.

(h) *Aliens previously granted permanent residence.* No alien previously granted lawful permanent residence may request or be granted classification or any benefits under this provision.

(i) *Decision—(1) Approval.* If the petition is approved and the beneficiary is outside the United States the applicant will be notified of the decision and the petition will be forwarded to the National Visa Center. If the beneficiary is in the United States and seeks to apply for adjustment of status, the petition will be retained by USCIS.

(2) *Denial.* If the petition is denied, the petitioner will be advised of the decision and of the right to appeal in accordance with 8 CFR part 103.

(j) *Rejection.* Petitions filed under this provision on or after September 30, 2006 or after the limit of 950 visas has been reached will be rejected and the fee refunded.

[70 FR 21131, Apr. 25, 2005]

**§ 204.11 Special immigrant status for certain aliens declared dependent on a juvenile court (special immigrant juvenile).**

(a) *Definitions.*

*Eligible for long-term foster care* means that a determination has been made by the juvenile court that family reunification is no longer a viable option. A child who is eligible for long-term foster care will normally be expected to remain in foster care until reaching the age of majority, unless the child is adopted or placed in a guardianship situation. For the purposes of estab-

lishing and maintaining eligibility for classification as a special immigrant juvenile, a child who has been adopted or placed in guardianship situation after having been found dependent upon a juvenile court in the United States will continue to be considered to be eligible for long-term foster care.

*Juvenile court* means a court located in the United States having jurisdiction under State law to make judicial determinations about the custody and care of juveniles.

(b) *Petition for special immigrant juvenile.* An alien may not be classified as a special immigrant juvenile unless the alien is the beneficiary of an approved petition to classify an alien as a special immigrant under section 101(a)(27) of the Act. The petition must be filed on Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er) or Special Immigrant.

(1) *Who may file.* The alien, or any person acting on the alien's behalf, may file the petition for special immigrant juvenile status. The person filing the petition is not required to be a citizen or lawful permanent resident of the United States.

(2) *Where to file.* The petition must be filed at the district office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service having jurisdiction over the alien's place of residence in the United States.

(c) *Eligibility.* An alien is eligible for classification as a special immigrant under section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Act if the alien:

(1) Is under twenty-one years of age;

(2) Is unmarried;

(3) Has been declared dependent upon a juvenile court located in the United States in accordance with state law governing such declarations of dependency, while the alien was in the United States and under the jurisdiction of the court;

(4) Has been deemed eligible by the juvenile court for long-term foster care;

(5) Continues to be dependent upon the juvenile court and eligible for long-term foster care, such declaration, dependency or eligibility not having been vacated, terminated, or otherwise ended; and

(6) Has been the subject of judicial proceedings or administrative proceedings authorized or recognized by

the juvenile court in which it has been determined that it would not be in the alien's best interest to be returned to the country of nationality or last habitual residence of the beneficiary or his or her parent or parents; or

(7) On November 29, 1990, met all the eligibility requirements for special immigrant juvenile status in paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(6) of this section, and for whom a petition for classification as a special immigrant juvenile is filed on Form I-360 before June 1, 1994.

(d) *Initial documents which must be submitted in support of the petition.* (1) Documentary evidence of the alien's age, in the form of a birth certificate, passport, official foreign identity document issued by a foreign government, such as a Cartilla or a Cedula, or other document which in the discretion of the director establishes the beneficiary's age; and

(2) One or more documents which include:

(i) A juvenile court order, issued by a court of competent jurisdiction located in the United States, showing that the court has found the beneficiary to be dependent upon that court;

(ii) A juvenile court order, issued by a court of competent jurisdiction located in the United States, showing that the court has found the beneficiary eligible for long-term foster care; and

(iii) Evidence of a determination made in judicial or administrative proceedings by a court or agency recognized by the juvenile court and authorized by law to make such decisions, that it would not be in the beneficiary's best interest to be returned to the country of nationality or last habitual residence of the beneficiary or of his or her parent or parents.

(e) *Decision.* The petitioner will be notified of the director's decision, and, if the petition is denied, of the reasons for the denial. If the petition is denied, the petitioner will also be notified of the petitioner's right to appeal the decision to the Associate Commissioner, Examinations, in accordance with part 103 of this chapter.

[58 FR 42850, Aug. 12, 1993]

**§ 204.12 How can second-preference immigrant physicians be granted a national interest waiver based on service in a medically underserved area or VA facility?**

(a) *Which physicians qualify?* Any alien physician (namely doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathy) for whom an immigrant visa petition has been filed pursuant to section 203(b)(2) of the Act shall be granted a national interest waiver under section 203(b)(2)(B)(ii) of the Act if the physician requests the waiver in accordance with this section and establishes that:

(1) The physician agrees to work full-time (40 hours per week) in a clinical practice for an aggregate of 5 years (not including time served in J-1 non-immigrant status); and

(2) The service is:

(i) In a geographical area or areas designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) as a Medically Underserved Area, a Primary Medical Health Professional Shortage Area, or a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area, and in a medical speciality that is within the scope of the Secretary's designation for the geographical area or areas; or

(ii) At a health care facility under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA); and

(3) A Federal agency or the department of public health of a State, territory of the United States, or the District of Columbia, has previously determined that the physician's work in that area or facility is in the public interest.

(b) *Is there a time limit on how long the physician has to complete the required medical service?* (1) If the physician already has authorization to accept employment (other than as a J-1 exchange alien), the beneficiary physician must complete the aggregate 5 years of qualifying full-time clinical practice during the 6-year period beginning on the date of approval of the Form I-140.

(2) If the physician must obtain authorization to accept employment before the physician may lawfully begin working, the physician must complete the aggregate 5 years of qualifying full-time clinical practice during the 6-year period beginning on the date of the