

**§213.1 Admission under bond or cash deposit.**

The district director having jurisdiction over the intended place of residence of an alien may accept a public charge bond prior to the issuance of an immigrant visa to the alien upon receipt of a request directly from a United States consular officer or upon presentation by an interested person of a notification from the consular officer requiring such a bond. Upon acceptance of such a bond, the district director shall notify the U.S. consular officer who requested the bond, giving the date and place of acceptance and the amount of the bond. The district director having jurisdiction over the place where the examination for admission is being conducted or the special inquiry officer to whom the case is referred may exercise the authority contained in section 213 of the Act. All bonds and agreements covering cash deposits given as a condition of admission of an alien under section 213 of the Act shall be executed on Form I-352 and shall be in the sum of not less than \$1,000. The officer accepting such deposit shall give his receipt therefor on Form I-305. For procedures relating to bond riders, acceptable sureties, cancellation or breaching of bonds, see §103.6 of this chapter.

[29 FR 10579, July 30, 1964, as amended at 32 FR 9626, July 4, 1967; 62 FR 10349, Mar. 6, 1997]

**PART 213a—AFFIDAVITS OF SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF IMMIGRANTS**

Sec.

213a.1 Definitions.

213a.2 Use of affidavit of support.

213a.3 Notice of change of address.

213a.4 Actions for reimbursement, public notice, and congressional reports.

213a.5 Relationship of this part to other affidavits of support.

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**§213a.1 Definitions.**

As used in this part, the term:

*Domicile* means the place where a sponsor has a residence, as defined in section 101(a)(33) of the Act, in the

United States, with the intention to maintain that residence for the foreseeable future, *provided*, that a permanent resident who is living abroad temporarily shall be considered to be domiciled in the United States if the permanent resident has applied for and obtained the preservation of residence benefit under section 316(b) or section 317 of the Act, *and provided further*, that a citizen who is living abroad temporarily shall be considered to be domiciled in the United States if the citizen's employment abroad meets the requirements of section 319(b)(1) of the Act.

*Federal poverty line* means the level of income equal to the poverty guidelines as issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 9902 that is applicable to a household of the size involved. For purposes of considering the Form I-864, Affidavit of Support Under Section 213A of the Act, the Service and Consular Posts will use the most recent income-poverty guidelines published in the FEDERAL REGISTER by the Department of Health and Human Services. These guidelines are updated annually, and the Service and Consular Posts will begin to use updated guidelines on the first day of the second month after the date the guidelines are published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

*Household income* means the income used to determine whether the sponsor meets the minimum income requirements under sections 213A(f)(1)(E), 213A(f)(3), or 213A(f)(5) of the Act. It includes the sponsor's income and may also include the incomes of any individuals who either are related to the sponsor by birth, marriage, or adoption and have been living in the sponsor's residence for the previous 6 months or are lawfully listed as dependents on the sponsor's Federal income tax return for the most recent tax year, even if such dependents do not live at the same residence as the sponsor.

*Household size* means the number obtained by adding: (1) The sponsor and all persons living at the same residence with the sponsor who are related to the sponsor by birth, marriage, or adoption; (2) all persons whom the sponsor has claimed as a dependent on the sponsor's Federal income tax return for

the most recent tax year, even if such persons do not live at the same residence as the sponsor; and (3) the number of aliens the sponsor has sponsored under any prior Forms I-864 for whom the sponsor's support obligation has not terminated, plus the number of aliens to be sponsored under the current Form I-864, even if such aliens do not or will not live at the same residence as the sponsor.

*Immigration Officer*, solely for purposes of this part, includes a Consular Officer, as defined by section 101(a)(9) of the Act, as well as an Immigration Officer, as defined by §103.1(j) of this chapter.

*Income* means an individual's gross income, for purposes of the individual's Federal income tax liability, including a joint income tax return.

*Intending immigrant* means any beneficiary of an immigrant visa petition filed under section 204 of the Act, including any alien who will accompany or follow-to-join the principal beneficiary.

*Means-tested public benefit* means either a Federal means-tested public benefit, which is any public benefit funded in whole or in part by funds provided by the Federal Government that the Federal agency administering the Federal funds has determined to be a Federal means-tested public benefit under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law 104-193, or a State means-tested public benefit, which is any public benefit for which no Federal funds are provided that a State, State agency, or political subdivision of a State has determined to be a means-tested public benefit. No benefit shall be considered to be a means-tested public benefit if it is a benefit described in sections 401(b), 411(b), 422(b) or 423(d) of Public Law 104-193.

*Program official* means the officer or employee of any Federal, State, or local government agency or of any private agency that administers any means-tested public benefit program who has authority to act on the agency's behalf in seeking reimbursement of means-tested public benefits.

*Relative* means a husband, wife, father, mother, child, adult son, adult daughter, brother, or sister.

*Significant ownership interest* means an ownership interest of 5 percent or more in a for-profit entity that filed an immigrant visa petition to accord a prospective employee an immigrant status under section 203(b) of the Act.

*Sponsor* means a person who either is eligible to execute or has executed an affidavit of support under this part.

*Sponsored immigrant* means an immigrant on whose behalf a sponsor has executed an affidavit of support under this part, including any spouse or child who will accompany or follow-to-join the beneficiary of an immigrant visa petition filed by a sponsor.

#### **§ 213a.2 Use of affidavit of support.**

(a) *General.* (1) In any case specified in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, an intending immigrant is inadmissible as an alien likely to become a public charge, unless a sponsor has executed on behalf of the intending immigrant a Form I-864, Affidavit of Support Under Section 213A of the Act, in accordance with section 213A of the Act, this section, and the instructions on Form I-864. An affidavit of support is executed when a sponsor signs a Form I-864 before a notary public or an Immigration or Consular Officer and that form I-864 is submitted to an Immigration or Consular officer. The sponsor must execute a separate affidavit of support for each visa petition beneficiary and for each alien who will accompany or follow-to-join a visa petition beneficiary. For any spouse or children immigrating with a sponsored immigrant, the sponsor may execute an affidavit of support by submitting photocopies of the Form I-864 and all accompanying documentation, but each photocopy of the Form I-864 must have an original signature. Under this rule, a spouse or child is immigrating with a sponsored immigrant if he or she is listed in Part 3 of Form I-864 and applies for an immigrant visa or adjustment of status within 6 months of the date the Form I-864 is originally signed. The signature on the Form I-864, including photocopies, must be notarized by a notary public or signed before an Immigration or Consular Officer.

(2)(i) Except for cases specified in paragraph (a)(2)(ii) of this section, paragraph (a)(1) of this section applies