



## Instructions for J-2 Dependents Applicants

**Form DS-2019 must be used to apply for J-2 status using one of the options below.**

### APPLICATION FOR J-2 STATUS FROM OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES

#### Application at a U.S. Consulate for J-2 Status

- Schedule an appointment at: <https://ceac.state.gov/genniv>
- Provide a consular official with the following documentation:
  1. Form DS-2019 issued by ECFMG
  2. Passport, valid for at least six months past the end date on Form DS-2019
  3. Marriage certificate (spouse) or birth certificate (child)
- The J-2 dependent can either accompany the J-1 visa holder when the J-1 visa holder enters the United States, or enter separately at a later date.
- Dependents must each have their own Form DS-2019 and a J-2 visa stamp in their passport to enter the United States in valid J-2 status.

#### Canadian Citizens Processing for J-2 Status

Canadian citizens are not required to have a visa stamp issued by a U.S. Consulate in their passports. However, Canadian citizens applying for J-2 visa status for the first time must present the following at a U.S. port of entry:

1. Form DS-2019 issued by ECFMG
2. Passport, valid for at least six months past the end date on Form DS-2019
3. Marriage certificate (spouse) or birth certificate (child)

If approved for J-2 status, Form I-94 will be issued by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer.

### APPLICATION FOR J-2 STATUS FROM WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

*(Change of status through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services)*

- File for a change of status (CoS) through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).
  - ◇ Use form I-539 Request to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Visa Status.
  - ◇ See [www.uscis.gov/i-539](http://www.uscis.gov/i-539).
- Departure from the United States while a CoS is pending voids the application.
- If approved, Form I-797 confirming J-2 status will be issued.
- If approved, any subsequent travel outside of the United States will require consular processing and issuance of a J-2 visa (unless J-2 is a Canadian citizen).

### Important Regulations Pertaining to J-2 Dependents

- If the J-1 is subject to the two-year home physical presence requirement, the J-2 is also subject to the requirement.
- J-1 physicians are required to secure and maintain comprehensive health insurance for themselves and all J-2 dependents (see [www.ecfm.org/evsp/applying-general.html#insurance](http://www.ecfm.org/evsp/applying-general.html#insurance)).
- J-1 physicians are required to notify Intealth immediately if a sponsored J-2 dependent no longer needs J-2 sponsorship for any reason.
- J-2 dependents are eligible to apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) card through USCIS. Once an EAD card is issued, the J-2 dependent is then eligible to apply for a Social Security Number through the Social Security Administration. If employed, income derived from the spouse's employment cannot be used to support the J-1 physician and/or the family.
- A J-2 dependent may remain in the United States as long as the principal J-1 visa holder maintains valid J-1 status. A J-2 dependent must live with the J-1 physician at the same U.S. residential address.