

by allowing FGM to be performed on a child, in the United States.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jacquelyn Bednarz, Office of Programs, (202) 514-2764; Susan Houser, Office of the General Counsel, (202) 616-0781; or Lorraine Eide, Office of Asylum, (202) 305-2663; Immigration and Naturalization Service, 425 I Street, NW; Room 6100, Washington, DC 20536.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

What Are the Requirements of Section 644 of IIRIRA?

Section 644 of IIRIRA requires the Service, in cooperation with the Department of State, to make available for all aliens who are issued immigrant or nonimmigrant visas, prior to or at the time of entry into the United States, the following:

1. Information on the severe harm to physical and psychological health caused by FGM, compiled and presented in a manner which is limited to the practice itself, and respectful to the cultural values of the societies in which such practice takes place, and

2. Information concerning potential legal consequences in the United States for performing FGM, or allowing a child under one's care to be subject to FGM.

Section 644 also provides that, in consultation with the Department of State, the Service shall identify those countries in which FGM is commonly practiced and, to the extent practicable, limit the provision of information to aliens from those countries.

How Will the Service Comply With Section 644 of IIRIRA?

The Service, after consultation with the Department of State, shall comply with section 644 of IIRIRA by:

1. Posting a notice containing the required information in all United States Embassies and consulates concerning FGM, and

2. Providing a copy of the notice to each alien granted an immigrant or nonimmigrant visa in any of the those countries which have been identified by the Department of State as countries where FGM is prevalent, either countrywide or in particular ethnic subgroups. The United States Embassy or consulate in those countries will provide a copy of the notice to aliens at the time a visa is issued.

Which Countries Have Been Identified by the Department of State Where FGM is Prevalent?

The following 28 countries have been identified by the Department of State as countries where FGM is prevalent, either countrywide, or in particular ethnic subgroups:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eritria, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zaire (Congo).

In What Language Will the Notice Be Provided?

The notice will be provided in English and in the official, or predominant, written language of the country where the United States Embassy or consulate is located.

What Information Will Be Contained in the Notice?

The following is the text of the proposed notice, which was drafted by the Service in consultation with the Department of Justice's Criminal Division, the Department of State, and the Department of Health and Human Services:

What is Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)?

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the removal or infibulation (or both) of the whole or part of the clitoris, labia minora, and labia majora. The procedure can include sewing the vagina almost completely closed after the genitals are removed (infibulation). The procedure is common in certain cultures among various ethnic groups and across many different religions.

What are the Health Problems Associated With FGM?

The World Health Organization and other United Nations organizations, as well as the United States Government, recognize that FGM has very serious effects on the health of women and girls. Immediate complications of FGM include severe pain, shock, hemorrhage, urine retention, ulceration of the genital region, and injury to the adjacent tissue. Hemorrhage and infection can cause death.

Long-term consequences of FGM include cysts and abscesses, keloid scar formation, damage to the urethra resulting in urinary incontinence, painful intercourse, and sexual dysfunction. The most extreme forms of FGM can cause infertility, and may also cause an increase in the risk of stillbirths and maternal deaths.

Psychological consequences of FGM in childhood can include behavior disturbances and loss of trust and confidence in caregivers. As adults, these women may suffer feelings of incompleteness, anxiety, depression,

chronic irritability, and frigidity, and may experience marital conflicts.

What Are the Legal Consequences of Performing FGM in the United States?

The United States is among those countries that have made FGM illegal because of the dangerous health problems associated with it. In the United States, it is against the law to perform FGM on a person under the age of 18, unless the operation is medically necessary. There is no exception for performing FGM because of a belief that it is required as a matter of custom or ritual. A parent who knowingly allows FGM to be performed on his or her child could potentially be held criminally liable.

Will Victims of FGM Be Eligible for a Visa to Come to the United States?

The fact that a person has been subjected to FGM will have no effect on the victim's eligibility for a visa to the United States.

Why is the United States Providing This FGM Notice?

The United States Government is committed to working with local community organizations, both in the United States and in other countries, to help educate people about the serious detrimental effects that FGM has on women and girls.

Dated: March 4, 1998.

Doris Meissner,

Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

[FR Doc. 98-7162 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration and Naturalization Service

[INS No. 1888-97]

Expansion of the Direct Mail Program for the Dallas, El Paso, Harlingen, Houston, and San Antonio District Offices and the Albuquerque and Oklahoma City Suboffices; Form N-400

AGENCY: Immigration and Naturalization Service, Justice.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS or Service) is expanding its Direct Mail Program to include the Dallas, El Paso, Harlingen, Houston, and San Antonio District Offices and the Albuquerque and Oklahoma City Suboffices on the current list of direct mail sites for filing Form N-400, Application for

Naturalization. Applicants residing within these districts and suboffices will mail their Form N-400 directly to the designated INS service center for processing. This expansion is intended to improve INS service to the public by reducing processing times for Form N-400, limiting in-person visits to local offices, and improving the quality of case status information provided to the public.

DATES: This notice is effective April 15, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Arroyo, Adjudications Officer, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Office of Naturalization Operations, 801 I Street, NW., Room 935E, Washington, DC 20536, telephone, (202) 514-8247.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the Direct Mail Program, certain applicants and petitioners for immigration benefits mail their applications and petitions directly to an INS service center for processing instead of submitting them to a local INS office. The purposes and strategy of the Direct Mail Program have been discussed in detail in previous rulemaking and notices (see, e.g., 59 FR 33903 and 59 FR 33985).

The Service is continuing expansion of the Direct Mail Program, as applied to Form N-400, by adding the Dallas, El Paso, Harlingen, Houston, and San Antonio District Offices and the Albuquerque and Oklahoma City Suboffices as Direct Mail sites.

Where to File

Effective April 15, 1998 applicants for naturalization residing within the jurisdiction of the Dallas, El Paso, Harlingen, Houston, and San Antonio District Offices and the Albuquerque and Oklahoma City Suboffices must mail the Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, directly to the Texas Service Center at the following address: USINS Texas Service Center, Attention: N-400 Unit, P.O. Box 851204, Mesquite, Texas 75185-1204.

Transition

During the first 60 days following the effective date of this notice, the Dallas, El Paso, Harlingen, Houston, and San Antonio District Offices and the Albuquerque and Oklahoma City Suboffices will forward in a timely fashion to the Texas Service Center any Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, which has been inadvertently filed with the respective District or Suboffice. Applicants will be provided a notice at the time of filing at the District or Suboffice advising them that their application is being forward to the service center for initial processing.

The applicant will receive written notification from their respective District or Suboffice of the date, place, and time of their interview for naturalization. When applications are forwarded from the District or Suboffices, they will be receipted and filed when they arrive at the service center. After the 60-day transition period, applicants attempting to file Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, at the offices listed above will be directed to mail their application directly to the Texas Service Center for processing.

Dated: March 12, 1998.

Doris Meissner,

Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

[FR Doc. 98-7104 Filed 3-18-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

National Institute of Justice

[OJP(NIJ)-1145]

RIN 1121-ZB03

Meeting of the Methamphetamine Interagency Task Force

AGENCY: Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice, Justice.

ACTION: Meeting notice.

SUMMARY: Meeting of the Methamphetamine Interagency Task Force.

DATES: May 4, 1998, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and May 5, 1998, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Assistant Attorney General's Conference Room, Office of Justice Programs, 810 7th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information and reservations: Kristina Rose, National Institute of Justice, 810 7th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531. Telephone: (202) 307-0466. Facsimile: (202) 307-6256. E-mail: rosek@ojp.usdoj.gov.

For submission of written questions: Cherise Fanno, National Institute of Justice, 810 7th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531. Telephone: (202) 307-9021. Facsimile: (202) 307-6394. E-mail: fanno@ojp.usdoj.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Methamphetamine Interagency Task Force will hold its inaugural meeting. The agenda will include an ethics briefing for all Task Force members; remarks by the Attorney General and the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; presentations on the

current status of methamphetamine abuse, and efforts to prevent and treat such abuse, in the United States; open discussion of issues of concern to Task Force Members; and procedures for organizing the work of the Task Force in order to carry out its statutory responsibilities.

The meeting will be open to the public on a space-available basis, and reservations will be required. A photo ID will be requested for admittance. See contact point listed above to reserve a space and to advise of any special needs. Anyone wishing to submit written questions to this session should notify the contact point listed above by Monday, April 20, 1998. Questions must be accompanied by the interested party's name, affiliation, and means of contact (address or telephone number). Interested persons are encouraged to attend.

Dated: March 16, 1998.

Jeremy Travis,

Director, National Institute of Justice.

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

[Docket No. H-372]

RIN 1218-AB58

Metalworking Fluids Standards Advisory Committee: Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Labor.

ACTION: Metalworking Fluids Standards Advisory Committee: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Metalworking Fluids Standards Advisory Committee (MWFSAC), established under section 7 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to advise the Secretary of Labor on appropriate actions to protect workers from the hazards associated with occupational exposure to metalworking fluids, will meet in Cleveland, Ohio, on Wednesday, April 8, 1998, at the Sheraton Airport Hotel, 5300 Riverside Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44135-3196, (1-800-362-2244).

DATES: The meeting will be held on April 8, 1998. The meeting will begin at 8:30 A.M. and adjourn at approximately 5:00 P.M.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will take place at the Cleveland Sheraton Airport Hotel, 5300 Riverside Drive, Cleveland, Ohio 44135-3196. Mail comments, views or