

Immigration Newsflash: The Premium Processing Fee

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Many people dealing with the U.S. immigration process experience frustration and confusion as they confront a network of bureaucratic, underfunded and overworked government agencies that operate in a manner that is inconvenient at best, and catastrophic at worst. For those wishing that the entire process would move more quickly, there is now a partial solution – the premium processing fee. Here are the key points:

- If you **pay a premium processing fee of U.S. \$1000** in addition to the standard government filing fees, you enclose with your petition a properly completed Form I-907 (Request for Premium Processing Service) and premium processing is available for your particular visa petition, **then the Immigration and Naturalization Service ("INS") should respond to your nonimmigrant visa petition within 15 calendar days of receipt by the INS.**
- If the INS does not respond to your case within 15 days after it receives your case, you will receive a full refund on your premium processing fee payment, and your case will still be processed expeditiously by the INS.
- The INS does not guarantee an approval of your petition, and reserves the right to request additional supporting evidence from the petitioner.
- Premium processing is not available for all cases. So far, only the following visa petitions are permitted to be filed with the premium processing fee: E-1/E-2, H-1B, H-2B, H-3, L-1, O-1/O-2, P, R, Q and TN. if you are in a hurry, you have the extra cash and are about to file one of the above-referenced visa petitions, you should consider requesting premium processing.