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### **PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST IMMIGRANT FRAUD!**

- Always use a licensed attorney or an accredited immigration assistance service provider for your immigration needs
- Be careful with scam artists that would do what it takes to take your money. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is
- Never give the original copies of your important documents (such as birth certificates, passports, green cards, residency cards, etc.) to an attorney or an immigration service provider. Always be sure that you provide copies of your original documents
- Never sign blank documents, applications or petitions
- Don't trust people who claim to have a special relationship or connection with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service and its agents, or other official governmental agencies
- Don't trust people who guarantee quick results or quick approval of applications or petitions
- Never sign documents that contain false information or incorrect statements
- An immigrant assistance service provider is **NOT** an attorney. Therefore, they can **NOT** offer legal advice or services. If you consult with an immigration assistance service provider, it should be solely for the translation of documents and you should always get a contract listing the services offered, which should be written in English and your native language
- Avoid immigration assistance service providers that charge for their services in cash only or through a pre-paid card. Use a personal check, a certified check or a credit card issued by a bank for these services
- Always get a receipt or a document listing the services rendered and make sure the receipt includes the name of the person or the business that offered the immigration services
- Be careful with individuals claiming to be notaries, people claiming to be able to represent you in immigration proceedings, and/or people claiming to be able to give you immigration advice. These people are not allowed or authorized by law to provide legal assistance
- Be careful with counselors, travel agencies and other business that offer immigration assistance
- If you or anyone you know is an immigrant and you feel that you've been a victim of fraud in Brooklyn, please call the Immigrant Affairs Unit at the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office at (718) 250-3333 between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm from Monday to Friday. You can also contact our Action Center, located at 350 Jay Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201, or via telephone at (718) 250-2340