

§ 236.13 Ineligible aliens.

The following categories of aliens are ineligible for benefits under the Family Unity Program:

(a) An alien who is deportable under any paragraph in section 237(a) of the Act, except paragraphs (1)(A), (1)(B), (1)(C), and (3)(A); provided that an alien who is deportable under section 237(a)(1)(A) of such Act is also ineligible for benefits under the Family Unity Program if deportability is based upon a ground of inadmissibility described in section 212(a)(2) or (3) of the Act;

(b) An alien who has been convicted of a felony or three or more misdemeanors in the United States; or

(c) An alien described in section 241(b)(3)(B) of the Act.

§ 236.14 Filing.

(a) *General.* An application for voluntary departure under the Family Unity Program must be filed at the service center having jurisdiction over the alien's place of residence. A Form I-817, Application for Voluntary Departure under the Family Unity Program, must be filed with the correct fee required in §103.7(b)(1) of this chapter and the required supporting documentation. A separate application with appropriate fee and documentation must be filed for each person claiming eligibility.

(b) *Decision.* The service center director has sole jurisdiction to adjudicate an application for benefits under the Family Unity Program. The director will provide the applicant with specific reasons for any decision to deny an application. Denial of an application may not be appealed. An applicant who believes that the grounds for denial have been overcome may submit another application with the appropriate fee and documentation.

(c) *Referral of denied cases for consideration of issuance of notice to appear.* If an application is denied, the case will be referred to the district director with jurisdiction over the alien's place of residence for consideration of whether to issue a notice to appear. After an initial denial, an applicant's case will not be referred for issuance of a notice to appear until 90 days from the date of the initial denial, to allow the alien

the opportunity to file a new Form I-817 application in order to attempt to overcome the basis of the denial. However, if the applicant is found not to be eligible for benefits under §236.13(b), the Service reserves the right to issue a notice to appear at any time after the initial denial.

§ 236.15 Voluntary departure and eligibility for employment.

(a) *Authority.* Voluntary departure under this section implements the provisions of section 301 of IMMACT 90, and authority to grant voluntary departure under the family unity program derives solely from that section. Voluntary departure under the family unity program shall be governed solely by this section, notwithstanding the provisions of section 240B of the Act and 8 CFR part 240.

(b) *Children of legalized aliens.* Children of legalized aliens residing in the United States, who were born during an authorized absence from the United States of mothers who are currently residing in the United States under voluntary departure pursuant to the Family Unity Program, may be granted voluntary departure under section 301 of IMMACT 90 for a period of 2 years.

(c) *Duration of voluntary departure.* An alien whose application for benefits under the Family Unity Program is approved will receive voluntary departure for 2 years, commencing with the date of approval of the application. Voluntary departure under this section shall be considered effective from the date on which the application was properly filed.

(d) *Employment authorization.* An alien granted benefits under the Family Unity Program is authorized to be employed in the United States and may apply for an employment authorization document on Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization. The application may be filed concurrently with Form I-817. The application must be accompanied by the correct fee required by §103.7(b)(1) of this chapter. The validity period of the employment authorization will coincide with the period of voluntary departure.