

**The Biggest Immigration News in a Decade:
"Deferred Action" for Young People**

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Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano announced that effective immediately, certain young people not presently in legal immigration status who were brought to the United States as young children, do not present a risk to national security or public safety, and meet several key criteria will be considered for relief from removal from the country or from being placed into Removal Proceedings. Those who demonstrate that they meet the criteria will be eligible to receive "Deferred Action" for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and will also be eligible to apply for work permits.

"Deferred Action" is not permanent legal status or citizenship. Rather "Deferred Action" is a way to allow those young people, who have been in this country since they were young, to complete their education or begin their careers.

Preliminary information indicates that eligible applicants must each meet the following criteria:

- Has come to the U.S. under the age of 16.
- Is 15 to 30 years old as of June 15, 2012.
- Has continuously resided in the U.S. for at least 5 years preceding June 15, 2012.
- Is present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012.
- Is currently in school, has graduated from high school, has obtained a GED certificate, or is an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the U.S.
- Has not been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, multiple misdemeanor offenses, or otherwise poses a threat to national security or public safety.

DHS Secretary Napolitano has instructed both U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to have in place a process to begin implementation of "Deferred Action" for young people by August 15th. More details will be forthcoming.

Young persons who may qualify, their family, friends and employers should take note. More than one million young persons are expected to apply for "Deferred Action." For more information about "Deferred Action" and benefits from this major Immigration development, please contact Michael L. Kabik at (301) 231-0937 or mkabik@shulmanrogers.com.