



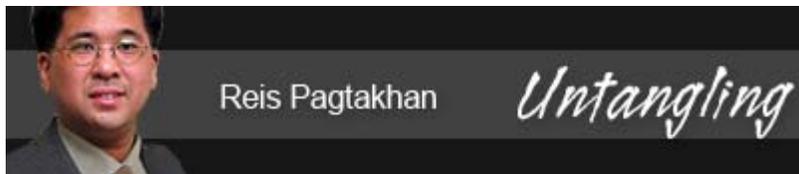
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Immigration Law: Special Processing for Typhoon Ketsana Victims

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Earlier this month, the federal government announced special expedited processing for individuals affected by Typhoon Ketsana.

Who is eligible for special processing?

Not everyone is eligible for special processing. Individuals eligible for special processing include:

1. Relatives being sponsored as members of the Family Class such as spouses, common-law and conjugal partners, dependent children, parents, grandparents, and orphaned family members.
2. Applications for protected persons being processed in Canada including close family members directly affected by the disaster.
3. Applications for persons in the Permit Holder Class who are including close family members directly affected by the disaster.





4. Family members of persons in the Live-in Caregivers Class, who are living in the affected area, where the primary applicant has submitted an application for permanent residence to the Case Processing Centre in Vegreville.
5. Temporary resident applications from persons directly affected in the Philippines.

In addition, please note that it is the individual's responsibility to prove that s/he has been significantly and adversely affected by the disaster.

How do I tell Immigration that my case needs to be processed as a priority?

If you have not yet filed a sponsorship application, please write "Philippines" in big bold letters on the envelope.

If you have already filed your application, call Citizenship and Immigration's call centre at 1-888-242-2100 and tell them your file number. If you have not yet received your file number, be prepared to tell them your Immigration Fee receipt number, your courier or registered mail tracking number, and the date that Canada Post or your courier indicates that the package was received by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Please note that Citizenship and Immigration Canada will also ask a number of personal questions. One of the questions they will ask is the address of your relative in the Philippines to confirm that they lived within the affected area. If the application is now being processed in the Philippines, your relatives should try to contact the Embassy.

How do I prove that someone has been significantly and adversely affected?

It is a good idea to provide as much information as you can. If your relative was injured or if some of your relatives were killed, this should be mentioned. If property was destroyed or damaged, this should be mentioned. If your relative's school or place of work was destroyed, this should be mentioned. If your relative's means of livelihood was affected (for instance, if his or her farm was wiped out) this should be mentioned. Please note that this is not a complete list. Essentially, everything that has affected your relative should be mentioned. Please also note that you may be asked to provide supporting documents where you can.

Please note that special processing does not mean that persons ineligible for visas will be given visas. All applicants still must meet the legal requirements to obtain visas to Canada. For further information on special processing, please go to www.cic.gc.ca

This article is prepared for general information purposes only and is intended to provide comments for readers and friends of Filipino Journal. The contents should not be viewed as legal advice or opinion. If you have specific questions concerning immigration law, you should discuss them with a legal advisor of your choice.

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