

Untangling The Law

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Representing Yourself at the Immigration and Refugee Board

Have you ever sponsored a relative to come to Canada only to have the application refused? If you sponsored a member of the "Family Class," you may have received a letter from Citizenship and Immigration that said you could appeal the decision. If you decide to appeal, where should you begin?

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to ask a few questions to a lawyer for the Canada Border Services Agency who represents Citizenship and Immigration Canada on appeals. Here are the questions and answers.

1. As the lawyer for the government, what kind of family-class sponsorship cases have you been encountering?

The majority of family-class sponsorship appeals are those involving marriage cases.

2. Is it necessary for a person to be represented by a lawyer

or a licensed immigration consultant at the Immigration Appeal Division?

It is not necessary to be represented by a lawyer or licensed immigration consultant. Persons may represent themselves or may be assisted by friends or relatives provided that the friends or relatives do not receive any payment for the assistance.

3. What mistakes do "unrepresented" applicants make at the Board?

Persons unfamiliar with an administrative tribunal and its processes may be somewhat intimidated by the process and may find preparing their case difficult. For instance, they may not fully understand the Board's rules or may have difficulty gathering relevant documents, preparing witnesses, and presenting the case clearly.

4. What do you recommend to persons who want to represent themselves at the Board?

Persons wishing to represent themselves must understand why their sponsorship applications were refused and focus on the issues that resulted in the refusal. They must organize their case, gather evidence, and prepare their documents and witnesses. It is a good idea to attend an actual appeal hearing in person prior to their own appeal; most are public hearings anyway. Above all, being truthful and credible is very important.

For more information, visit a guide to proceedings before the Immigration Division: <http://www.irb.gc.ca/eng/brdcom/references/legjur/idsi/guide/Pages/index.aspx>

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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Iloilo City among the world's Top 100 Outsourcing Cities


A worldwide study conducted by services globalization and investment advisory firm Tholons has ranked the city of Iloilo in the Visayas region 98th in the list of Top 100 Outsourcing Cities.

According to Global Services, a media platform which connects buyers and service providers in the global IT services and the business process outsourcing (BPO) industry, the list reflects the current competitiveness and stature of cities in the global outsourcing landscape and also provides insight to the future potential of locations in addressing emerging trends and demands in services globalization.

Iloilo City also made it to the list of 50 Aspiring Cities around the globe for its high potential to become ideal hubs for BPO investments. Last year, the city ranked third in the Top 10 Aspirants meaning it can improve as emerging global outsourcing cities in the coming years.

The other Philippine mega cities Manila and Cebu ranked fourth and ninth, respectively in the Top 10 list. Meanwhile, the cities of Davao and Bacolod are considered aspiring cities by ranking 69th and 100th, respectively.

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