

CIC Requirements: Permanent Residence - Refugee Sponsorship Program¹

- All information submitted to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) must be true;
- *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* defines misrepresentation as:
 - Directly or indirectly misrepresenting or withholding material facts relating to a relevant matter that induces or could induce an error in immigration law
- Immigration fraud recently became a crime in Canada;
- If CIC and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) suspect that a permanent resident has misrepresented in their immigration application, an investigation will be initiated;
- In the last few years, CIC has maintained a zero tolerance policy towards misrepresentation;
- If misrepresentation is well founded following investigation, the permanent resident will:
 - Be issued a removal order and asked to leave Canada;
 - Will be barred from applying to any immigration category for at least 5 years;
 - Will have a permanent fraud record with CIC;
 - Will be charged with a crime.
- Examples of misrepresentation include but are not limited to:
 - Conceal identity or citizenship;
 - Concealing marital status (current and previous);
 - Concealing existence of children or spouse and all other family members;
 - Concealing information about previous Canadian immigration history;
 - Concealing information about personal history (travels, military and government positions etc);
 - Concealing criminal convictions and medical conditions;
 - Fabricating identity (birth), civil (marriage, divorce), and other official documentation;
 - Having another undergo a medical examination;
 - Any information which, should CIC been aware, would have resulted in the non-issuance of a permanent resident visa;
 - Any concealed information, which allowed the foreign national to gain a benefit under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*;
- The above stands with respect to all dealings with CIC and CBSA, including:
 - Completion of form and submission of documents;
 - Answers provided at immigration interviews at Embassy/immigration offices overseas;
 - Answers provided at landing at a Canadian port-of-entry with CBSA;
 - Information and documents submitted in all future immigration applications (permanent residence card renewal, residence questionnaire, citizenship application and sponsorship of parents, grandparents, children and spouses).
- Hay Doun is not an immigration office and its mandate is to advise applicants of eligibility requirements;
- Each applicant is responsible to ensure that all forms/documents as well as all future information submitted to CIC/CBSA are truthful;
- The duty is on applicants to be forthright with CIC/CBSA and disclose relevant information proactively.

¹ Written by Mary Keyork, Immigration Lawyer – February 6, 2016