



Starting Over in the U.S.

After Getting Your Green Card

An Indispensable Handbook for Immigrants

Elzbieta Baumgartner

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Cover design: SKOK Communications, LLC, New York, tel. 1-718-224-2948, www.skok.us

Publisher: Polpress Services, 255 Park Lane, Douglaston, NY 11363, tel. 1-718-224-3492

Editing: Heidi Baumgartner

International Standard Book Number: ISBN 978-0-9770453-0-3

International Standard Book Number 10 digit: 0-9770453-0-7

Library of Congress Control Number: 2008939789

1. Aliens -- United States -- Popular Works. 2. Aliens -- United States -- Handbooks, manuals, etc. 3. Visitors, Foreign -- United States -- Life skills guides.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Each year, over one million immigrants from around the globe gain permission to reside in the United States by receiving a Green Card, while millions more wait for that privilege in the U.S. and abroad. *Starting Over in the U.S. After Getting Your Green Card* and other books from the New American Guides series are indispensable for all immigrants.

This book is for all Green Card holders who want to establish themselves in the U.S. Upon receiving permanent resident status, newcomers must search for a job, find a place to live, buy a car, and learn about potentially new concepts such as medical insurance or credit history, sometimes while only beginning to speak English. Immigrants must abide by new laws, follow unfamiliar regulations, and cope with different customs when they come to a new country. As a permanent resident, you now have some obligations to fulfill and formalities to take care of. There is a lot to learn upon coming to America, including how not to lose your Green Card.

This book is particularly valuable for **those who waited for their Green Cards and worked without papers in the U.S.** They need to fix their records to reflect their now legal status and valid Social Security number. This book explains how an old, invalid SSN or taxpayer number (ITIN) can be replaced. It describes what needs to be done at the Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Motor Vehicle Department, and at your bank and workplace. For example, those who started working without authorization need to know how to pay back taxes they owe, how to change their Social Security number at work without getting fired, how to have unauthorized employment period credited by the Social Security Administration, and much more.

Those who stumbled in the past can use the information found here to undo their mistakes and clean up their records, if possible, in order not to be deported or not to lose their chances for naturalization. Many immigrants escaped from hardship in their homelands only to find that at the beginning life in America is not easy either. Whether

because of a lack of papers, misinformation, insufficient knowledge, financial difficulty, or falling victim of fraud, newcomers occasionally overlook paying taxes, misuse Social Security numbers, fail to answer traffic tickets, use someone else's identity, miss paying a bill, or even get arrested. They should know that although their actions are recorded in various databases, there are ways to fix past mistakes, and these methods are described in this book.

Obtaining a Green Card does not mark the end of the road to a better life, but merely the beginning of new challenges, as immigrants are enabled to compete with Americans on equal footing. Again and again, newcomers to the U.S. start from nothing, and through hard work and perseverance, achieve their dreams. Americans often wonder how some immigrants, who arrive to the U.S. with nothing, manage to own homes, run businesses, and send their children to the best universities within a short period of time. The reason for this is not only the hard work, entrepreneurial spirit, and frugality typical to immigrants, but also their open-mindedness, determination, and adaptability. **Readers who desire to achieve** can learn from the book about potential pitfalls they may encounter, and how to avoid them.

Starting Over in the U.S. After Getting Your Green Card is the only book on the market that helps newcomers to the United States to start life anew upon receiving a Green Card and fix the problems created by a period of illegal status and other challenges. Immigrants in America are known for their diligence and rapid success. Like many others, you will also succeed in your new homeland!

Please be advised that the author of this book is not an attorney. The book was written for educational purposes only. The reader should consult an attorney about his or her particular situation.