

MARCH 24, 2016 BULLETIN TO ALL IMMIGRATION CLIENTS

Obama Administration Relaxes Travel Restrictions to Cuba

The Obama Administration has recently announced a further relaxation of travel restrictions for U.S. citizens interested in traveling to Cuba. The recent changes would allow individuals to travel to Cuba as part of educational trips, and also increase limits on the use of U.S. dollars in transactions with Cuba. The regulatory changes are being implemented through The Departments of Treasury and Commerce, and are implemented in conjunction with the recent travel of President Obama to Cuba.

Under the amended regulations, individuals who plan a trip which will include a full schedule of "people-to-people" educational exchange (including interactions with Cuban people) will be able to travel to Cuba for the first time in decades without first obtaining permission to do so from the U.S. government. Travelers will be required to retain records of their activity in Cuba, including documentation demonstrating a full-time schedule of authorized activities. Further guidance is anticipated to be issued regarding the types of documentation necessary to comply with these federal requirements, as well as how much scrutiny the U.S. government will provide for travel to Cuba on an ongoing basis.

Other changes announced will allow Cuban citizens to earn salaries in the United States, and also ease financial transactions for Cubans with banks in the United States. Similarly, other regulatory changes announced by the Departments of State and Transportation will allow direct air service to and from Cuba.

Please note that this bulletin is provided as a summary of recent changes for travel restrictions to Cuba. As further announcements are made by the Administration, we will provide additional updates.

If you have any questions about the above information, or wish to discuss a particular immigration concern for any destination outside the United States, please feel free to speak with a member of our Global Immigration Practice by calling us at 412-297-4900. To receive future bulletins by e-mail, please send an e-mail to bulletins@cohenlaw.com.

NOTE: We are knowledgeable and experienced immigration professionals, but we are not authorized to practice law or give advice in every jurisdiction in which our clients do business. Therefore, and when appropriate and/or required by local laws, we seek the counsel of authorized immigration professionals within the target jurisdiction and work closely with them to evaluate immigration requirements and options, prepare and file applications, etc.

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