

TOP TEN Green Card Application Mistakes

10

Missing forms: In most cases, applying for a green card involves about 7-8 forms on about 40 pages, not just Form I-485. A one-step filing, if eligible, can save you years in processing times.

9

Missing signatures: Most forms require more than one signature. Missing signatures will cause your application to be rejected, losing precious time.

8

Incorrect fees: Almost all forms have their own fee. Having your application rejected because you submitted the wrong fees places you at the back of the line as you have to resubmit with the correct fee.

7

Falling for a scam: *If it is too good to be true it probably is. Notarios are one example, and if something goes wrong, there is nothing they can do. Having an attorney fixing it later, if possible, will cost you more than if you would have hired an attorney in the first place. Also, anyone quoting you a price over the phone without fully knowing your entire history, is doing you a disservice.*

6

Missing translations: Make sure each page of every document in a foreign language has a certified translation. You could lose about 6 months on this alone.

5

Not being eligible: *Many reasons like filing too soon, too late, with a criminal record, or with the wrong help, may cause your case to be rejected or denied, costing you time, money, or placing you in removal proceedings.*

4

Doing it yourself: You can file without the help of an attorney. There are many reasons why you should not file without the help of an attorney, but especially if you have been arrested, had a case denied by immigration before, have a prior order of removal, or entered the country without inspection. If you have any doubt as to the right answer on any line of the forms, see an attorney. The forms are difficult even for native English speakers and they are full of traps. The question may not mean what you think it means.

3

Missing deadlines: Submit a complete application the first time. If something is missing or needs more information, you will receive a Request for Evidence that has a deadline for receiving your response, setting you back a few months. If you miss that deadline, your case may be denied.

2

Not enough income: Your financial sponsor must meet certain income requirements. If that is not met, your sponsor would need to qualify on assets, or you might need a joint sponsor. Read the instructions very carefully as this is a common cause for a Request for Evidence.

1

DO NOT LIE! Any misspelling or misrepresentation will be construed by the officials against you as a lie or false information. Pay attention to your names, addresses, employment history, criminal history, and immigration history. Not only will your application get denied, but you will be placed in removal proceedings.