

## **Family-Based Immigrant Visas**

### **Immediate Relatives:**

Marriage to U.S. citizen, parent or child of U.S. citizens – immediate relatives of U.S. citizens may apply for permanent residency. Visas are immediately available to the spouse, parent, or child under 21 years of age of a U.S. citizen.

Permanent residency from petitions based on marriages to U.S. citizens are subject to a two-year condition residency period if the marriage is less than two years old. Within 90 days of the completion of the two-year period, one must petition to remove the conditions on permanent residency. Failure to timely file for removal of conditions will cause the loss of permanent residency.

### **1st Preference:**

Sons and daughters of U.S. citizens – adult unmarried sons and daughters (over 21 years of age) of U.S. citizens qualify for permanent residence, although there is a waiting period for visa availability, which varies depending on country of origin.

### **2nd Preference:**

Spouses, children, and unmarried sons and daughters of permanent residents:

The Family 2A preference is available for spouses and unmarried children under 21 years of age of permanent residents. There is a waiting period for visa availability, which varies depending on country of origin.

The Family 2B preference is available for unmarried sons and daughters of permanent residents over 21 years of age. There is a waiting period for visa availability, which varies depending on country of origin.

### **3rd Preference:**

Married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens – married sons and daughters may qualify for a family visa in the category, subject to visa availability and a waiting period, which varies depending on country of origin.

### **4th Preference:**

Brothers and sisters of adult U.S. citizens – The brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens may obtain permanent residency subject to the limitations of visas and a waiting period, which varies depending on country of origin.