

**IMMIGRATION CORNER**



**ATTY. MICHAEL GURFINKEL**

# Tips for obtaining a visitor's visa

visited the U.S., and you will not go "TNT".

There are two basic types of visitor's visas:

1. Visitor for Pleasure. This means that a person is coming to the US for "legitimate activities of a recreational character, including tourism, amusement, visits with friends or relatives, rest, medical treatment, and activities of a fraternal, social, or service nature". In other words, you are coming to visit family or friends, Disneyland, etc.

2. Visitor for Business. This refers to "conventions, conferences, consultations, and other legitimate activities of a commercial or professional nature." This would include taking orders for goods manufactured abroad, negotiating contracts, consulting with business associates, etc.

Visitor visas do not allow a person to work in the US. So, do not think that once you arrive in the U.S. you can start working. If the Consular Officer believes that your true intention

in going to the US is to find work, this alone may be sufficient grounds to deny your visitor's visa.

To be eligible for a visitor's visa (whether for business or pleasure) you must prove to the Consular Officer, among other

things:

1. You have a residence in a foreign country (such as the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, etc.), which you have no intention of abandoning.

2. You intend to enter the U.S. for a period of specifically limited duration (i.e. one month, six months, etc).

3. You are going to the US for the sole purpose of engaging in legitimate activities relating to business or pleasure.

4. You have made adequate financial arrangements, so you can demonstrate to the Consular Officer that you will be able to support yourself (and your family while you are away) and/or carry out the purpose of your trip. This would include showing that you have enough money for hotels, food, etc, for your trip, so you will not have to work in the U.S. in order to be able to support yourself while you are here.

5. You should have specific and realistic plans, not just vague and uncertain intentions, for the entire period of your contemplated visit. In other words, the Consular Officer will want to know where you will be going, where you will be staying, how long you will be staying at each place, how you will get from place to place, etc.

There is no reason for you to be nervous, start crying, or faint, when the Consul starts asking you questions. But please understand that they have a job to do, and rules and regulations to follow. There are various requirements that must be met. The Consular Officer must be fully satisfied that you meet those requirements, before a visitor's visa can be issued. Unfortunately, some people who apply for visitor's visas promise to return to the Philippines. But, after arriving in the US, they overstay and go TNT. That is why the Consular Officer wants to make sure that if you go to the U.S., you will come back to the Philippines.

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## Money and the simple life

### IMMIGRANT LIVING: 101 AND BEYOND



**MONETTE ADEVA MAGLAYA**

(Here's an old favorite excerpted from the book, "The Complete Success Guide for the Immigrant Life.")

There are no shortcuts in arriving at a decision to live a simple life. Sometimes, one has to go through a personal hell experiencing an inner fatigue and helplessness over the never-ending chase for the almighty dollar and quality of life in order to come to a conclusion that there has to be a better way than what is commonly believed.

Money is a major consideration in deciding to simplify one's life. Let's face it. Our attitude and relationship towards money have a lot to do with it. If you are always strapped for money because you are too deeply buried in debt, then money has you in a stranglehold. You have to work longer, harder hours in order to pay off the debt. Think of it this way. If you buy a new car which you have to pay on installment for the next five years, you have just signed yourself on to work for the next five years to pay it off. If you love your work and can see yourself doing it for the same company for the next five years, then driving a new car and being able to pay for it are bonuses of the work that you love to do. But if you hate your job, "... aye there's the rub..." as Shakespeare would say. Overwhelming financial problems will prevent you from living simply.

Many who have taken the simple life path will tell you that being relatively debt-free can be very liberating. It will allow you to breathe freely and lead you to appreciate everything with a twinkle in your eyes, about life under these big blue skies.

Saved money can give you options to take an extended leave, extended sabbaticals, switch gears to study for a change in career or simply to do the things you have always wanted to do but could not because you have

"I owe, I owe. So off to work I go." - Car bumper sticker, taken from the song of Snow White's seven dwarfs, "Hi-ho, hi-ho. It's off to work I go."

been slaving your life away over things you have bought stashed in the garage, in the closet or in the basement unopened or things you have been maintaining to impress others with how successful you are and create an image.

To be able to save money, you will have to live below your means and pare down to the barest minimum your expenses to cover the basic necessities. Your treacherous, fat ego—the one that keeps wanting to impress others with bogus symbols of power and success—must be cut down to size. If you have neither the motivation nor the discipline to do this, it won't happen.

Ergo, put that big, fat ego on a diet, pronto.

If you begin to understand your attitude about money and how you can make it work for you instead of you spending your life away chasing it and living paycheck to paycheck, then you are on the right track. When it finally hits you that money can either free you or make a slave out of you depending on how you view it and how you use it, you can then begin to exercise the control you never knew you had over it. The reward is tremendous. You begin to experience a rare sense of freedom that only a simple life gives.

Charles Dickens who would probably make a good accountant as well, stated it plainly.

"Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen nineteen six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds ought and six, result misery."

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## When you need a helping hand Why a homecare agency is not only for the aging and disabled

### JUNO CONNECTION



**CHARMAINE TEODORO**

WHAT do you think of when you hear the term "home care"?

For many people, an image of a large bed surrounded by oxygen tanks and a private nurse tending to a sickly person who needs intense medical attention is what comes to mind. For others, perhaps it's an elderly person who needs the help of a nurse or companion to help him/her with the simplest of tasks. These ideas stem from the fact that people perceive homecare as a service reserved for the elderly. Though it's true that a lot of homecare agencies only work with seniors, it should be known that many now offer valuable services which are helpful for people beyond that age group. Homecare agencies offer a range of solutions that are not

limited to medical purposes. Non-medical homecare is a billion dollar industry offering services for practically everyone with basic homecare needs. Tasks can be as complex as geriatric care, or taking care of the elderly, to very simple ones such as house-keeping, meal preparation and babysitting. Some even provide concierge services, where specific tasks are done such as procuring tickets, scheduling appointments and arranging meetings. This wide array of services gives clients an opportunity to find people to do all domestic and personal administrative tasks in one place.

The expanded reach of the homecare industry gives benefits to a lot of people who aim to free up their time. The services are also made available on flexible terms so you can enjoy the comfort of having someone do your laundry, clean your house or take care of your kids without breaking your budget. Generally, homecare agencies offer personal care (and special care), homemaking as well as companionship and sitting. Those that have a broader offering include concierge services in their list of offerings.

The most common service associated with homecare is personal care. It's when an agency sends