

AVOID BECOMING A DV 2008 FRAUD VICTIM

DHAKA, OCTOBER 11 -- The annual Diversity Visa Lottery registration is taking place from October 4th to December 3rd, 2006.

The United States Embassy Dhaka is aware that fraudulent activities have occurred involving DV lottery applicants in recent years. The activities of so-called “visa agents” who “guarantee” DV visas are of particular concern. Incidents of “visa agents” stealing customer identities and giving them to other customers have occurred. “Visa agents” have also consistently extorted money from their clients before giving them information about their case.

We recommend that those interested in participating in the DV 2008 Lottery follow the below guidelines when completing the on-line DV registration process:

- Candidates should carefully read ALL instructions on how to submit an entry properly. Failure to follow all instructions exactly may result in automatic disqualification.
- Candidates should provide the address where they normally receive their mail – do not provide the address of a “visa agent.”
- Candidates should provide completely accurate biographical information concerning themselves and their spouses and children – biographic discrepancies may eventually result in visa refusal for lottery winners.
- If candidates use the services of a third party to complete the on-line application, the services to be provided and the fees to be paid should be agreed in writing in advance. If third party services are used, the applicant is completely responsible for the accuracy of the information. The US Embassy is aware of many cases in which third party preparers, both “visa agents” and

“internet shop preparers,” submitted wrong information which led to the disqualification of the candidate.

We would like to emphasize that **there is no cost for the DV program until the day of the interview**. Applicants should not pay money to *anyone* for DV information until the day of their interview, at which time they will pay the Embassy directly.

-- Candidates should never give personal information OR their school documents to a “broker” or other third party – the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka will advise lottery winners of documentation requirements.

-- Candidates should not surrender their original documents when having them translated to English. Candidates should have certified translation copies made from the original document and should keep the original documents to present at their interview.

Additional Information: Instructions for DV 2008 applications is posted on the American Embassy Dhaka website: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/>

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GR/ 2006

Note: *A Bangla translation of this article is also available from the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section (Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)*