

## DV-2018 Fraud Prevention

### Key Messages: Visa Facilitators

- Many internet websites advertise services for assistance with submission of Diversity Visa (DV) program entries. In many countries, visa facilitators, visa agents, or visa coordinators offer assistance with the DV process.
- Although these services and businesses may be available, the online entry application is simple and free of charge. We strongly encourage entrants to complete the DV program entry without such unnecessary cost or assistance. The entry form and complete instructions for submitting an entry are available on the Department of State's web page: [usvisas.state.gov/dv/instructions](https://usvisas.state.gov/dv/instructions).
- Entrants must make all DV entries online through the Department's website, regardless of whether a facilitator assists an individual with the process. There is no cost to submit an entry through the website.
- The use of outside entities to assist in the DV process is not only unnecessary, but it often results in disqualification of the entry or denial of the visa application due to incorrect or missing required information in the entry, even if the individual is initially selected to apply for a visa.
- The law allows only one entry per person during the registration period. Entrants who submit more than one entry will be disqualified.
- Some unscrupulous visa facilitators have assisted entrants with their entries, retained the confirmation page, and then demanded more money in exchange for essential information on the confirmation page. Some facilitators have even required illegal action on the part of the selectee in order for the selectee to obtain the notification package. If entrants do use assistance to complete the entry, they should take steps to ensure they receive and retain the unique confirmation number contained in the confirmation page at the end of the entry process.
- Please be aware of a new requirement to submit a recent photograph that has been taken within six months. Entries with duplicate photo submissions from the previous DV year (DV-2017) will be disqualified.

- **For DV-2018, the Department will not send notification and visa appointment letters by mail or email, in an effort to prevent fraud.** Instead, application information will ONLY be available by directly accessing Entrant Status Check on the E-DV website [dvlottery.state.gov](http://dvlottery.state.gov).

#### Key Messages: DV Notification via Mail and Email

- The Department of State never uses email to notify entrants that they are selected for the DV program. For DV-2018, notification of selection only is available by directly accessing Entrant Status Check on the E-DV website [dvlottery.state.gov](http://dvlottery.state.gov).
- Any emails from the Department will only alert entrants to perform an Entrant Status Check. Our email communications will not provide selectee notification, will not direct recipients to pay fees, will not provide application instructions, and will not detail visa interview dates and times. This information is ONLY available by directly accessing Entrant Status Check on the E-DV website. You will not be asked to send money by mail or by services such as Western Union.
- You should not believe any email claiming you have been selected to apply for a visa under the DV program. These malicious emails are sent by criminal operators who seek to defraud individuals of their money. If you receive such a notification, pass it to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. The Department has dedicated units that work with internet providers to stop these scams. Please consult [usvisas.state.gov/dv/fraud](http://usvisas.state.gov/dv/fraud) for complete information about participating in the current DV program.
- If you wish to file a complaint about internet fraud, please visit [econsumer.gov](http://econsumer.gov), a joint effort of consumer protection agencies from 17 nations hosted by the Federal Trade Commission. You can also visit the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) website ([ic3.gov](http://ic3.gov)). To file a complaint about unsolicited email, contact the Department of Justice ([usdoj.gov](http://usdoj.gov)).