



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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WARNING ON IMMIGRATION AND VISA-RELATED FRAUD

The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago wishes to inform the Filipino community within its jurisdiction that it has received a circular from the Department of Foreign Affairs regarding a modus operandi on immigration and visa-related fraud.

A recent advisory by the INTERPOL General Secretariat disclosed that a number of applicants for visa and residence/work permit were scammed by entities that posed as immigrant law firms, visa travel companies or governmental agencies. It was reported that the victims were made to cough up up to US\$10,000.00 for administrative processes, but did not get the visa or document they applied for.

Caution is advised when receiving offers of overseas study or scholarship, employment or permanent residence through the phone, email or letters, which reported offenders can use to include false or fake documents or application forms, and direct their potential victims to fake or look-alike websites.

Applicants are, therefore, strongly encouraged that before engaging the services of agencies or individuals for the processing of their visas or residence work permits, they contact the Visa National Centers, Police Departments, Immigration Bureaus or their nearest Embassies/Consulates to inquire or confirm whether these agencies or individuals they are entrusting with their money or documents are currently licensed practitioners with outstanding track records.

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