

Maintaining Legal J-2 Dependent Status

March 2004

1. **Dependents of J-1 Visitors include spouse and children** and they can request a J-2 visa to accompany the exchange visitor.
2. **The J-2 dependent's status is directly dependent upon the J-1 Visitor's status.** The J-2 dependent is allowed to remain in the U.S. as long as the J-1 Visitor is maintaining legal status.
3. **The J-2 Visitor is required by the U.S. State Department to maintain health insurance coverage.** Refer to Maintaining Legal J-1 Status for details of health insurance requirements.
4. **If the J-2 dependent wishes to travel outside the U.S. and return** they must have their DS-2019 endorsed by authorized personnel in the Office of International Education and Programs prior to their departure. The J-2 dependent has the same requirements as the J-1 Visitor. Plan ahead and allow at least 5 working days to obtain DS-2019 endorsement.
5. **The J-2 dependent may engage in full-time study** while in the U.S.
6. **The J-2 dependent cannot engage in employment without first obtaining authorization from the U.S.CIS.** To apply for employment permission the dependent must submit the following documentation to the U.S.CIS regional office in Nebraska:
 - a. A letter requesting permission for employment. In this letter the dependent must verify that the money earned will not be used to support the J-1 Visitor but rather to augment the cultural exchange of the dependent(s) while in the U.S. Included in this letter should be the family's itemized expenses and monthly income.
 - b. A copy of I-94.
 - c. A check for \$120 payable to the U.S.CIS along with completed Form I-765.
 - d. A copy of DS-2019.
 - e. Copies of support documents demonstrating financial certification referenced in letter to request permission for employment.
 - f. Two passport-size photographs as described in Form I-765.

Note: Refer to "Immigration Resources" for Form I-765 and address for U.S.CIS.

Employment authorization by U.S.CIS will be concluded by the issuance of an Employment Authorization Document for the J-2 dependent.