

United States Department of State

Warns of Impostor or Fraudulent Websites

From: <http://www.travel.state.gov/dv2005.html>

NOTE: The entry period for the DV-2005 Diversity Visa Lottery ended December 31, 2003. It is now too late to submit new DV-2005 entries. New entries will not be accepted. The Department of State Warns of impostor or fraudulent Websites. There have been instances of fraudulent websites posing as official US Government sites. Some companies posing as the US Government have sought money in order to "complete" applications. [Learn more](#)

Learn More:

The Department of State, Visa Services advises the public that only internet sites including the ".gov" indicator are official government Websites, for our agency offices located in the United States. We are proud to have more than 200 Embassies worldwide. While many of these Embassy Consular Section Websites have the ".gov" indicator in their internet address, a number do not. The Department of State, Visa Services website does link directly to all Embassy Consular Section Websites abroad at <http://travel.state.gov/links.html>. This is a useful way for the public to access Consular Section Websites. Visa applicants are advised to be cautious in all dealings with companies that claim to offer any assistance in obtaining U.S. visas. Please note the following:

- **Immigration Related Websites.** Many other non-governmental Websites (e.g., using the suffixes ".com," ".org" or ".net") provide legitimate and useful immigration and visa related information and services. Regardless of the content of other Websites, the Department of State does not endorse, recommend or sponsor any information or material shown at these other Websites.
- **Other Impostor or Fraudulent Websites and Email.** A few other Websites may try to mislead customers and members of the public into thinking they are official Websites. These Websites may attempt to require you to pay for services such as forms and information about immigration procedures, which are otherwise free on the Department of State Visa Services Website, or overseas through the Embassy Consular Section Websites. Additionally, these other Websites may require you to pay for services you will not receive. These web sites may contact you by email to lure you to their offer. Additionally, be wary of sending any personal information that might be used for identity fraud/theft to these websites.
 - o **A Few Words about the Diversity Visa Program.** Specifically, there have been instances of fraudulent websites offering the public to apply to the Diversity Visa Program. There have been instances of fraudulent websites posing as official US Government sites. Some companies posing as the US Government have sought money in order to "complete" applications. Be advised that online application entry for the Diversity Visa lottery ended December 31, 2003. Processing of Diversity Visa applications, for registrants selected in the random drawing is now underway. It should be noted that applicants selected in the Diversity Visa random drawing are notified by the Department of State, Kentucky Consular Center, to proceed to the next steps in visa processing. No other organization or office is authorized by the Department of State to notify Diversity Visa program applicants.
- **How Do I Report Internet Fraud or Unsolicited Email?** If you wish to file a complaint about Internet fraud, please see the [econsumer.gov](http://www.econsumer.gov) Website, hosted by the Federal Trade Commission, which is a joint effort of consumer protection agencies from 17 nations at <http://www.econsumer.gov/english/> or go to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) [Internet Fraud Complaint Center](http://www.ifccfbi.gov/index.asp) <http://www.ifccfbi.gov/index.asp>. To file a complaint about

unsolicited email, contact [Department of Justice contact us page](http://www.usdoj.gov/spam.htm)
<http://www.usdoj.gov/spam.htm>.

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