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By Nepal Digest - October 23, 2026 - Nepal

A weekend can create a dangerous misunderstanding in an immigration application. One family sees a deadline counted in days; another is trying to file while a young person still meets an age requirement. Both dates may fall on a Sunday, yet the filing rules can produce different outcomes. For Nepalis preparing US applications, the useful question is therefore more precise than whether an office is closed: what creates this deadline, and how must the request be submitted?

US Citizenship and Immigration Services issued Policy Alert PA-2026-15 on 23 September 2026. Its revised guidance takes effect on **23 October 2026** for paper filings received from that date. The change reverses part of the agency’s 2023 approach to

eligibility-related deadlines. It concerns applications and other benefit requests handled by USCIS; Nepali nationality does not itself create an exemption or a separate deadline.

What changes—and what continues

The regulatory definition of a day includes Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays when counting a period. Where the final day falls on one of those days, the regulation provides for the period to continue to the next qualifying business day. Weekends in the middle of a period are therefore counted; a 30-day period is not 30 working days.

The revised policy limits that treatment to filing deadlines expressed as a period of days in the relevant statute, regulation or form instructions. It does not extend a deadline created by a substantive eligibility requirement, such as needing to file before a particular birthday. Electronic submissions do not receive extra time simply because paper-filing offices are closed.

The distinction to check before relying on an extra business day

Filing situation	Practical check
Paper deadline stated in days	Check whether the next-business-day rule applies when the final day is a weekend or federal holiday.

Filing situation	Practical check
Age or other eligibility cutoff	Do not assume office closure preserves eligibility until Monday.
Electronic submission	Check the actual online deadline and retain the submission confirmation.
Package handed to a courier	Check the required USCIS receipt date, correct filing location and delivery evidence.

The table is a starting point for checking a case, not a substitute for the controlling instructions. The alert itself notes that some immigration benefits follow different regulations and procedures. An asylum-related deadline, for example, should not be calculated by borrowing an example from an unrelated application.

Why a birthday needs particular care

The alert uses special immigrant juvenile classification to illustrate the difference. Its example concerns a petition that must be filed while the applicant is under 21. A weekend or federal holiday does not move that eligibility cutoff to the next business day under the revised guidance.

That example should prompt careful review, rather than a sweeping conclusion about every child in an immigration case.

Families should identify the exact benefit, the relevant age rule and any other applicable protection with their representative. This article does not calculate a child’s eligibility or establish that all dependants lose eligibility on the same date.

For a hypothetical family assembling records near an age cutoff, the first task is to get the filing requirement confirmed. The second is to work backwards: when must translations be ready, when will the representative check the documents, and when must an acceptable package arrive? The calendar should reflect those separate tasks. Discovering an unresolved document problem on the final Friday leaves little room to correct it.

Sending a package is different from filing it

The filing regulation at 8 CFR 103.2 records the actual receipt date at the designated filing location. It also requires compliance with the applicable form instructions. A rejected benefit request does not retain a filing date, and defects involving signatures or fees can lead to rejection. Timely delivery and a properly prepared request are separate concerns.

For someone coordinating documents between Nepal and the United States, that distinction is practical. A relative may finish collecting records, a translator may complete the English version and a courier may accept the envelope. None of those milestones

alone establishes that USCIS has received an acceptable filing. Keep each person’s responsibility clear, especially where an employer or legal representative controls the final submission.

Use a simple handover record: which documents were requested, who supplied them, what remains outstanding and who will confirm receipt. Preserve a copy of the submitted package and delivery evidence. If tracking shows a delay or an address problem, contact the representative promptly rather than assuming that paying for expedited shipping has resolved the deadline.

Documents arriving from Nepal can create another preparation dependency. The same regulation requires a foreign-language document submitted to USCIS to be accompanied by a full English translation, with the translator’s certification of accuracy and competence. Identify that work early. Check that names, dates and references are consistent across the packet, and send any discrepancy to the representative for review. Allow time for clarification rather than changing an original record to make the paperwork appear to match.

An online form needs its own plan

Submitting electronically is not the same as preparing a draft in an account. Before the deadline, check that the form can actually be submitted, that supporting files are ready and that the required

payment method works. Build in time to resolve a technical problem. After submission, save the confirmation and check the account for the recorded result.

A family member helping from Nepal and an applicant in the US should also agree on the exact date and time being used. If the account or notice specifies a time zone, use that information explicitly. A message saying “I will do it tomorrow” is an unreliable handover across countries. Avoid making a late-night technical failure the point at which everyone discovers that they understood the deadline differently.

These are planning recommendations, not a promise that USCIS will excuse a failed upload, payment problem or missed deadline. Do not choose paper or electronic filing merely to obtain perceived extra time; first establish which submission methods the particular request permits or requires.

Five questions to resolve with your representative

What action is due? Identify whether the task is an initial application, a response, a motion or something else. Keep the complete notice, not just a screenshot of its date.

What creates the deadline? Ask which statute, regulation or instruction applies, and whether it sets a period in days or an eligibility condition. Request the case-specific calculation in

writing when the answer is unclear.

Which filing method applies? Confirm the permitted method, the correct destination and what will count as successful submission. Do not transfer an answer from a friend’s different case.

Who owns the final step? Agree whether the applicant, employer or representative will submit. Set an internal completion date early enough to check the package and correct a problem.

What evidence will be kept? Decide who will retain the final documents, confirmation and relevant correspondence, and who will check that the expected receipt arrives.

Make the deadline a shared responsibility

The change deserves attention because a familiar calendar shortcut can conceal a consequential difference. Immigration-law analysis of the update similarly cautions employers and applicants against treating every weekend deadline alike. The practical response is a better filing plan, with a named person responsible for each step.

For Nepali applicants, the most useful habit is to connect the date to the actual document and rule behind it. Confirm the filing method, preserve evidence and resolve ambiguity before the last day. This is general information; a qualified immigration attorney

or accredited representative should assess an individual case.

A deadline is more than a square on a calendar. Know what must reach whom—and when.

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