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**FIA INFORMATION MEMO**

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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT  
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS AND ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

**FROM: *Robert J. Everhard*  
ROBERT J. EVERHARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA**

**RE: NEW VERSION OF I-551 CARD**

**PROGRAM AFFECTED: ALL PROGRAMS**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY, RESEARCH AND SYSTEMS**

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has revised the name of the I-551 (Green Card) from "Alien Registration Receipt Card" to "Permanent Resident Card." The INS has also issued a new version of the I-551 called the Permanent Resident Card. Please see the attached copy of an information release about the new card.

Older versions of the I-551 are valid until their expiration dates, if any. The immigrant must then replace the older version with the new I-551. These are changes in name and style of card only and do not change policy or procedures.

If you have any questions please contact Kay Finegan at 410-767-7939.

Attachment

cc: FIA Management Staff  
Constituent Services

U.S. Department of Justice  
Immigration and Naturalization Service



### Permanent Resident Card (I-551)

## New High-Tech Green Card

### Current Information on Newest Version

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has issued a new version of the "Green Card" that joins the other editions still in circulation. Although the new card retains the same form number—1-551—this newest version is called the Permanent Resident Card.

Like previous editions, the new card is issued to immigrants admitted as permanent residents and entitles them to live and work permanently in the United States.

Older versions of the I-551 may be used until their expiration dates, if any, and then must be replaced with the new card.



### NEW SECURITY FEATURES

The new Permanent Resident Card contains state-of-the-art security features that make it extremely counterfeit-resistant.

#### The front contains:

- The name, birth date, country of birth and INS "A" number of the person to whom the card was issued, along with a digitized color photograph and fingerprint of the cardholder.
- An imbedded hologram with images of:
  - The Statue of Liberty with rays emanating from its torch,
  - An outline map of the United States,
  - The INS seal,
  - The letters "USA," and
  - The words "United States of America," alternating with "US Immigration and Naturalization Service."

**NEW!**

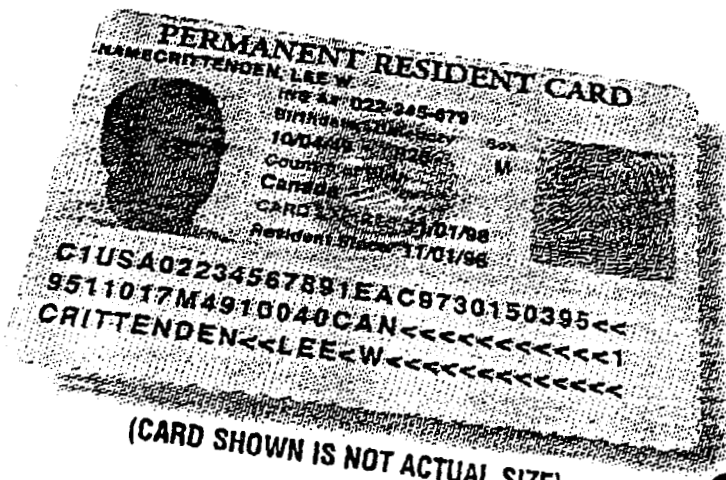
These images are generally visible in ordinary light, but this will vary with lighting conditions and the angle at which the card is viewed.

#### The back contains:

- An optical memory stripe that stores the cardholder's photograph and other information etched by laser into the card to prevent erasure or alteration. This feature makes the card machine-readable by INS scanners to verify the card.
- Additional hidden security features.

As a further safeguard, the card has been designed so that tampering with the laminated cover causes it to fall apart.

**NEW!**



(CARD SHOWN IS NOT ACTUAL SIZE)



REVERSE SIDE OF CARD

<http://www.ins.usdoj.gov>

1998  
Form I-551B

