



ADVISORY FOR FSM CITIZENS IN THE UNITED STATES

FSM CITIZEN IMMIGRATION RIGHTS



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This Advisory is issued to provide citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) with information regarding the special immigration rights of FSM citizens to enter and remain in the United States under the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the FSM.


The U.S.-FSM Compact of Free Association is a comprehensive binding international agreement between the two countries that was developed in 1986 and extended twice, in 2003 and 2023. It has been approved multiple times by the U.S. Congress and is in force under U.S. law.

The Compact and its subsidiary agreements have three main elements:

1. The U.S. has defense and security rights and obligations in the FSM, which constitutes a large part of the Pacific Ocean;
2. The U.S. provides the FSM extensive economic assistance in sectors of the FSM economy, such as health and education; and
3. **Citizens of the FSM have special Compact rights to enter and remain in the U.S. without visas to live, work, and study, without any limitation on the duration of their stays.**

These three parts of the relationship, including the special immigration privileges for FSM citizens, are a matter both of the Compact and U.S. domestic law, as confirmed recently in [Public Law 118-42](#). Because of these preferential rights, FSM citizens can enter and stay indefinitely without visas or time limits. As a result of this special status under the laws of the United States, FSM citizens in the United States would not be considered “illegal” immigrants under a recent Executive Order and are therefore not subject to removal under that Order. Moreover, as noted above they are not considered temporary visa holders, and therefore would not be subject to an Executive Order that excludes the children of temporary visitors from birthright citizenship. Any limitations on the stays of FSM citizens would be those applicable to any non-U.S. citizens under U.S. law, such as health-related

grounds and criminal convictions, and not because of a temporary visa status such as would apply to the citizens of other countries.

As suggested in other Advisories issued by the FSM Government, FSM citizens may want to keep their valid, unexpired FSM passports and a copy of their I-94 readily at hand, along with this Advisory, to address any questions that may arise. 

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