



IMMIGRATION ADVISORY

11 February 2020

1-20

Code 16 Legal Assistance POCs

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1. **BLUF:** United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has issued a new edition of Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service. Easy access to the new edition, dated 09/16/19, is available at <https://www.uscis.gov/n-426>. The edition date of USCIS forms can be verified by looking at the page footers at the bottom of USCIS forms.
2. **60 DAY GRACE PERIOD:** USCIS will accept the older 2017 edition of the N-426 only until 04/06/20. Code 16 recommends immediate use of the new 09/16/19 edition N-426 to prevent rejections caused by delayed filings.
3. **STEP BY STEP GUIDANCE:** Block by block Form N-426 completion guidance is now available via the Form N-426 Supplemental which can be found by clicking on the "Special Instructions" tab on the public facing USCIS website or at this location <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/n-426Supp.pdf>.
4. **REASON FOR UPDATE:** The updated Form N-426 more closely aligns with Department of Defense and Department of Navy policies. Specifically, the updated Form N-426 and N-426 Supplemental clarify that:
 - (a) Sailors must be certified by the first 0-6 or higher in the Sailor's permanent or temporary chain of command.
 - (b) Navy policy does not authorize sub-delegation of certifying authority below the first 0-6 or higher in the Sailor's permanent or temporary chain of command nor to any civilians in the Sailor's permanent or temporary chain of command.
 - (c) The certifier must legibly provide their full name, work telephone number, military email address, official written signature, and date of signature.
 - (d) An original ink signature or a copy of an original ink signature of the certifier is acceptable. Digitally certified signatures are not acceptable on the Form N-426.
5. Please contact Ms. Kate Somerville, at (202) 685-4639 or via email at kathlene.somerville@navy.mil with any questions concerning this advisory.