

**From:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services [mailto:uscis@public.govdelivery.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 24, 2016 3:05 PM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** USCIS Message: Reminder for H-4 Applicants When Traveling Abroad

Dear Stakeholder,

USCIS would like to remind individuals applying for a change of status to H-4 that if you travel abroad before we approve your Form I-539, Change of Status (COS) application, we will consider your application to be abandoned. This means we will deny your COS application. If you filed your Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, and travel abroad before your COS is approved, it will be considered abandoned, along with your I-539 application. This will result in a denial of your Form I-765 even if you are re-admitted as an H-4 nonimmigrant. If re-admitted as an H-4 nonimmigrant, you would need to file a new [Form I-765](#), with fee, in order to apply for employment authorization.

For more information, see the [FAQs: Employment Authorization for Certain H4 Dependent Spouses](#) webpage at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

Sincerely,

USCIS Public Engagement

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Please do not reply to this message. Contact us at [Public.Engagement@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:Public.Engagement@uscis.dhs.gov) or [USCIS-IGAOutreach@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:USCIS-IGAOutreach@uscis.dhs.gov) with any questions.

To learn more about the Public Engagement Division, visit us online at [uscis.gov/outreach](http://uscis.gov/outreach).