

Some US visa fees go up

As of next Friday, September 12, the fees for some consular services provided by the United States Embassy in Jamaica, including visa applications, will be increased.

However, the cost for the visitors' visa (B1/B2) will remain unchanged, while the fees for some services will actually decrease. The embassy yesterday advised that fees for family-based immigrant visas, commonly known as 'filings', will increase from US\$230 (J\$25,000) to US\$325 (J\$36,000). These include immigrant visa petitions filed by family members in the US, such as spouses, parents, adult children, and siblings. Fiancé(e) visas, known as 'K' visas, will increase from US\$240 (J\$27,000) to US\$265 (J\$29,000). Employment-based immigrant visa petitions, however, will decrease from the current US\$405 (J\$45,000) to US\$345 (J\$38,000). Additionally, the fee to renounce one's US citizenship will increase from US\$450 (J\$50,000) to US\$2,350 (J\$265,000). Fees have also decreased for out-of-office consular services, such as depositions, from US\$231 (J\$26,000) an hour to US\$135 (J\$15,000), an hour. The US Embassy Kingston processes approximately 100,000 non-immigrant visa applications and 12,000 immigrant visa applications a year. Each year, the entire Department of State, processes more than 11 million non-immigrant visas and 600,000 immigrant visa applications.