

Immigration Interpretation Bulletin #1

How New Immigration Rules Affect You:

Educational Agents and Institutions

March 1, 2012

Over the past few months, many changes have been made to how various groups can conduct business with Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). This Interpretation Bulletin has been created to explain clearly what these new rules mean to Educational Agents and Institutions.

Immigration Advisory:

How does Bill C-35 affect Educational Agents and Institutions:

Bill C-35 made it an offence for anyone other than an Authorized Representative to offer immigration services for a fee or other consideration, at any stage of an application or proceeding. Authorized Representatives include: members in good standing of ICCRC (known as Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultants – RCICs), lawyers in good standing with a provincial or territorial law society and notaries who are members in good standing of the Chambre des notaires du Québec. For a list of RCICs, please visit this link - <http://www.icrc-crcic.ca/public/membershiplistFull.cfm>.

What are the penalties?

Bill C-35 doubled the penalties from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and/or imprisonment of up to 2 years for conviction by indictment. Bill C-35 doubled the penalties from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months on summary conviction.

What Educational Agents and Institutions may do without being an Authorized Representative:

Provide translation services; provide courier services; provide medical services; make travel arrangements; advise an international student on how to select courses or register.

What Educational Agents and Institutions may not do unless they are an Authorized Representative:

Explain/provide immigration advice; complete immigration forms (including study permits); communicate with CIC/CBSA on a client's behalf or represent clients in an immigration application or proceeding.

How does ICCRC handle complaints?

ICCRC takes all complaints seriously. If we receive a complaint that an Educational Agent or Institution is contravening these rules, ICCRC will collect further evidence, build a case, and submit it to the CBSA or the RCMP.

For more information, please review:

Bill C-35 - <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/department/media/backgrounders/2011/2011-06-28a.asp>

IP9 – Use of Representatives - <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/manuals/ip/ip09-eng.pdf>