

NOTICE TO APPEAR: THE CHARGING DOCUMENT

- WHAT IS AN NTA?
- DID THE CLIENT RECEIVE IT?
- WHO SIGNED IT?
- ISSUANCE OF THE NTA V. COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

WHAT IS REQUIRED ON THE NTA? INA § 239 / 8 C.F.R. § 239

- (A) THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE ALIEN
- (B) THE LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH PROCEEDINGS ARE CONDUCTED
- (C) THE ACTS OR CONDUCT ALLEGED TO BE IN VIOLATION OF LAW
- (D) THE CHARGES AGAINST THE ALIEN AND THE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS
- (E) THE ALIEN MAY BE
 REPRESENTED BY
 COUNSEL AND THE ALIEN
 WILL BE PROVIDED A
 PERIOD OF TIME TO
 SECURE COUNSEL AND A
 CURRENT LIST OF COUNSEL
- (F) ALIEN MUST PROVIDE AN ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER WHERE HE MAY BE CONTACTED
- (G) TIME AND PLACE OF WHERE PROCEEDINGS ARE TO BE HELD

WHAT CONSTITUTES PROPER SERVICE?



- PERSONAL SERVICE OF NTA
- IF NOT PRACTICABLE-REGULAR MAIL-LAST KNOWN ADDRESS
- SERVICE UPON COUNSEL OF RECORD
- PRESUMPTION THAT IF IT WAS MAILED, THE RECEIVED BY ALIEN. (MATTER OF M-D, 23 I&N DEC.540 BIA 2002)

YOU'VE GOT THE NTA-NOW WHAT?

- READ ALL INFORMATION VERY CAREFULLY
- ARE THE FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS CORRECT?
- DOES IT CONTAIN ALL OF THE REQUIRED INFORMATION UNDER THE REGULATIONS?
- WAS IT SIGNED BY THE RIGHT PERSON?
- IS YOUR CLIENT IN §212 PROCEEDINGS OR §237 PROCEEDINGS?
- CAN THE GOVERNMENT SUSTAIN THE LEGAL CHARGES AGAINST YOUR CLIENT?
- DOES THE FACTUAL ALLEGATION RELATE TO THE ALLEGED GROUND OF REMOVAL/INADMISSIBILITY?

BURDENS OF PROOF

- IF YOU ARE IN §237 PROCEEDINGS, THEN THE GOVERNMENT HAS THE BURDEN OF PROOF TO ESTABLISH THAT THE ALIEN IS DEPORTABLE BY "CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE"- INA §240(C)(1)
- IF YOU ARE IN §212 PROCEEDINGS, THEN THE BURDEN IS ON THE ALIEN TO SHOW "CLEARLY AND BEYOND A DOUBT" ENTITLED TO BE ADMITTED OR BY "CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE" THAT THE ALIEN IS LAWFULLY PRESENT PURSUANT TO A PRIOR ADMISSION- INA §240(C)(2)





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First appeared as part of the conference materials for the 2018 A Practical Guide to Immigration Removal Proceedings session "Challenging NTAs and Motions to Suppress"