



PUBLIC ADVISORY

Deployment of Filipino *Au Pairs* to the U.S.

The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles informs the public that the Philippine government is currently reviewing its policy on the deployment of Filipino *au pairs* who use J-1 visas to enter and stay in the United States.

An *au pair* agreement is a cultural exchange arrangement with an American host family for a minimum stay of one year. The *au pair*, living on an equal basis with the host family, is able to continue their post-secondary education in exchange for childcare.

Being a cultural exchange arrangement, an *au pair* agreement should therefore not be mistaken for, or taken as a long-term substitute to an employment contract.

The *au pair* agreement between a Filipino *au pair* and a local host family should include the following minimum provisions, prescribed by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) of the Republic of the Philippines:

- The *au pair* shall receive appropriate compensation, in accordance with U.S. federal and local labor laws;
- The host family shall shoulder all travel costs related to the sponsoring of the Filipino *au pair* including but not limited to the cost of visa and air fare;
- In the event of death of the *au pair* during the term of his/her contract, the repatriation of his/her remains and transport of his/her personal belongings and all costs attendant thereto shall be shouldered by the host family. The host family may secure repatriation insurance for this purpose. In case the repatriation of remains is not possible, the same may be disposed of upon prior approval of the *au pair's* next of kin; and
- In the event that the *au pair* becomes ill or injured to the extent that he/she can no longer fulfill his/her contract and after proper medical assistance has been provided him/her, the cost of his/her repatriation to the Philippines and all costs attendant thereto shall be at the expense of the host family. The host family may secure repatriation insurance for this purpose.

Each *au pair* agreement for authentication (red ribbon) shall be reviewed according to the guidelines prescribed above. This review is being undertaken to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of overseas Filipinos

The U.S. Department of State has activated a helpline to ensure the health and safety of exchange participants. Among other prohibitions, no sponsor may threaten program termination, or otherwise retaliate against a participant solely because he or she has instituted a complaint or taken action to gain assistance from an outside entity regarding a complaint. Participants can contact the State Department at any time via the hotline 1-866-283-9090 or at jvisas@state.gov.

You may also call the Philippine Consulate General's Assistance-to-Nationals hotline at 213- 587-0758.