

CHAPTER 5A

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE ORGANIZATIONS

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5A.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** The definitions in this section apply to this chapter.

Subd. 2. **International student exchange visitor placement organization; organization.** "International student exchange visitor placement organization" or "organization" means a person, partnership, corporation, or other entity that regularly arranges the placement of international student exchange visitors for the purpose, in whole or in part, of allowing the student an opportunity to attend school in the United States.

Subd. 3. **International student exchange visitor; student.** "International student exchange visitor" or "student" means a person 18 years of age or under, or up to age 21 if enrolled or to be enrolled in high school in this state, placed by an international student exchange visitor placement organization, who enters the United States with a nonimmigrant visa.

History: 1993 c 238 s 1

5A.02 ORGANIZATION REGISTRATION.

(a) All international student exchange visitor placement organizations that place students in schools in the state shall register with the secretary of state.

(b) Information provided to the secretary of state under this chapter is a public record.

(c) Registration must not be considered or be represented as an endorsement of the organization by the secretary of state or the state of Minnesota.

History: 1993 c 238 s 2

5A.03 ORGANIZATION APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

(a) An application for registration as an international student exchange visitor placement organization must be submitted in the form prescribed by the secretary of state. The application must include:

(1) evidence that the organization meets the standards established by the secretary of state by rule;

(2) the name, address, and telephone number of the organization, its chief executive officer, and the person within the organization who has primary responsibility for supervising placements within the state;

(3) the organization's unified business identification number, if any;

(4) the organization's Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, United States Department of State number, if any;

(5) evidence of Council on Standards for International Educational Travel listing, if any;

(6) whether the organization is exempt from federal income tax; and

(7) a list of the organization's placements in Minnesota for the previous academic year including the number of students placed, their home countries, the school districts in which they were placed, and the length of their placements.

(b) The application must be signed by the chief executive officer of the organization and the person within the organization who has primary responsibility for supervising placements within Minnesota. If the secretary of state determines that the application is complete, the secretary of state shall file the application and the applicant is registered.

(c) Organizations that have registered shall inform the secretary of state of any changes in the information required under paragraph (a), clause (1), within 30 days of the change. There is no fee to amend a registration.

(d) Registration under this chapter is valid for one year. The registration may be renewed annually. The fee to renew a registration is \$50 per year.

(e) Organizations registering for the first time in Minnesota must pay an initial registration fee of \$150.

(f) Fees collected by the secretary of state under this section must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the general fund.

History: 1993 c 238 s 3; 1997 c 137 s 5; 2009 c 101 art 2 s 15,108

5A.04 RULES.

(a) The secretary of state shall adopt by rule standards for international student exchange visitor placement organizations. In adopting the rules, the secretary of state may adopt standards established by the Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, United States Department of State and the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel. The secretary of state may incorporate standards established by the Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, United States Department of State or the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel by reference and may accept an organization's designation by the Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, United States Department of State or acceptance for listing by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel as evidence of compliance with the standards.

(b) The secretary of state must require that an international student exchange visitor placement organization's application form for participation as a host family include a signed document complying with section 299C.62, subdivision 2, that gives the organization permission to conduct a background check on members of the host family. Sections 299C.60 to 299C.64 apply to the background check, except that for purposes of this section the term "background check crime" includes any felony.

History: 1993 c 238 s 4; 1997 c 137 s 6; 2009 c 101 art 2 s 108

5A.05 INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENT.

International student exchange organizations that have agreed to provide services to place students in the state shall provide an informational document in English, to each student, host family, and superintendent of the school district in which the student is being placed. The document must be provided before placement and must include the following:

(1) an explanation of the services to be performed by the organization for the student, host family, and school district;

(2) a summary of this chapter prepared by the secretary of state; and

(3) telephone numbers that the student, host family, and school district may call for assistance. The telephone numbers shall include, at a minimum, an in-state telephone number for the organization, and the telephone numbers of the organization's national headquarters, if any, the Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, United States Department of State, and the Office of the Secretary of State.

History: *1993 c 238 s 5; 2009 c 101 art 2 s 108*

5A.06 COMPLAINTS.

The secretary of state may, upon receipt of a complaint regarding an international student exchange organization, report the matter to the organization involved, the Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, United States Department of State, or the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel, as the secretary of state considers appropriate. The secretary may also investigate complaints received under this section to determine if the complaint is limited to one high school or if there are systemic problems with placements made by a particular organization. The secretary of state may terminate an organization's registration if the secretary determines the organization has failed to remain in compliance with local, state, and federal statutes, rules, and regulations.

History: *1993 c 238 s 6; 2009 c 101 art 2 s 16*

5A.07 VIOLATIONS; MISDEMEANOR.

A person who fails to register as required by this chapter or who willfully and knowingly gives false or incorrect information to the secretary of state in filing statements required by this chapter, whether or not the statement or report is verified, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

History: *1993 c 238 s 7*