

Form I-910-012 Extension - Response to 30-day FRN Public Comments

Public Comments (regulations.gov): [USCIS-2013-0002](#)

30-day FRN Citation (federalregister.gov): [91 FR 41648](#)

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Comment Topic	Comment Summary	USCIS Response
Topic 1. Vetting and oversight for Civil Surgeons		
0048	Public Comment from a Concerned Citizen: I am writing to express serious concerns regarding the oversight and vetting of civil surgeons tasked with conducting I-693 examinations for USCIS. Numerous Reddit posts and news articles have documented very troubling issues, including reports of applicants having to obtain new I-693 forms because there were issues with the civil surgeon who completed them, and even allegations of inappropriate physical contact during their examinations. Recent arrests and an OIG report have not resulted in meaningful action or improved accountability. It appears there is little to no vetting of civil surgeons, despite clear recommendations from the OIG report. The I-910 application to be a civil surgeon has not been updated in years, if ever. At a minimum, there must be questions added about prior disciplinary actions and criminal history, request a photo, take biometrics, and better communicate the responsibilities and rules to civil surgeons. Failure to act exposes applicants to risk and creates liability for USCIS. Without immediate reforms, there is a risk to the health and public safety of our country and physical and financial harm to vulnerable applicants. I urge the agency to take these concerns seriously, to update the I-910 application, and to implement robust vetting and oversight measures for civil surgeons.	Response: Thank you for your comment concerning civil surgeon designation. At this time, USCIS will not make additional changes to the information collection. USCIS is committed to program integrity. As part of the request for designation, USCIS assesses an individual's eligibility for designation, including licensure requirements, and practice restrictions. Additionally, USCIS only grants civil surgeon designation if the civil surgeon warrants a favorable exercise of discretion. See USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 8 Part C, Chapter 2. Therefore, as part of the physician's background check and vetting process, USCIS verifies the information the physician provides and determines if there are any adverse factors that prevent a favorable decision. See DHS/USCIS/PIA-067, USCIS Civil Surgeon Designation, https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/pri-vacy-pia-uscis-067-civilsurgeon-june2017.pdf. Additionally, USCIS is committed to exploring possible policy or regulatory updates for the civil surgeon designation process as a whole. These potential projects could be accompanied by form revisions, at which time, USCIS will consider specific recommendations. Additionally, civil surgeons and the public in general can send questions and concerns to OPSCivilSurgeons@uscis.dhs.gov.