

Faster Background Checks Are Pledged

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The federal Citizenship and Immigration Services agency announced an agreement with the F.B.I. to speed up security **background checks** of immigrants applying to become permanent residents and United States citizens. The agencies said they would finish by May all **background checks** that have been backlogged for more than three years and by July for all cases waiting more than two years. The agencies said they planned to expand staff and streamline procedures. Currently, about 66,000 cases have been waiting longer than six months.

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