

## **IMMIGRANT IS PENALIZED \$110 FOR INS MISTAKE**

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### **Body**

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**Mistakes** are one thing. Paying for one someone else made to the tune of \$ **110** is another.

But Simon Perkins said that's what happened during a recent visit to the Immigration and Naturalization Service **in** Manhattan.

Perkins, 29, is a legal **immigrant** from England. "I have been married to an American for four years, and I am proud of my new country and the opportunity it has given me," he said.

Perkins successfully received green card status. But the card never came **in** the mail. When he went to Federal Plaza to find out what was wrong, he discovered the card had been sent to the wrong address.

Someone mailed it to W. 187th St. rather than West 87th St., even though the original application shows the correct address.

Perkins didn't think there'd be a problem getting a replacement card. He was wrong. "After waiting from 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the representative informed me I would have to pay \$ **110** for it," he explained.

Perkins said he can live with "the rudeness of the immigration officials, the regular costs of the applications and day-long marathons" at the **INS** for the last five years.

But he objects to having to pay for a **mistake** he didn't make.

"It's not a huge sum of money," he writes. "But no one **in** the **INS** will take responsibility for this."

Someone did. **INS** spokesman Mark Thorne had the case reviewed.

Officials found someone had made not one, but two **mistakes**: first by entering the wrong address, then by **penalizing** Perkins for the error. They sent Perkins a refund and an apology.

Now that's the American way.

Asa Aarons is a consumer reporter who appears on WNBC-TV, Channel 4 News. His special Daily News column appears Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Send your questions to: Ask Asa, P.O. Box 3310, New York, N.Y. 10116, or E-mail him at [DNconsumer@aol.com](mailto:DNconsumer@aol.com). Questions will be answered only through this column.

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