

Traveler's Aid:

Q&A TRAVEL :

Restrictions on visa are no honeymoon

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

July 11, 1999, Sunday,, Home Edition

Copyright 1999 The Atlanta Constitution

Section: Travel; Pg. 3K

Length: 383 words

Byline: News services

Body

Q: I am planning a honeymoon cruise to the Caribbean. My wife-to-be is not a U.S. citizen and does not have her green card. She does have a driver's license and I-94 papers. Will this be enough?AJC

A: If your fiancée is in the United States on any type of immigrant visa, traveling out of the country could get her stranded.

"Her biggest problem is that we're going to be looking at her very closely because she's married to a U.S. citizen," said Ernestine Fobbs, a spokeswoman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. "She is what we call an 'intended immigrant' (a person who intends to immigrate to the U.S.)."

Most immigrant visas, including the "fiancée" or K-1 visa, are "one- entry" visas. In other words, you cannot come and go without prior approval, which is not easy to obtain. And getting married does not automatically make your wife a legal permanent resident. You will have to fill out the paperwork, and may wait as long as a year to be interviewed.

Fobbs advises that you and your fiancée not leave the country for your honeymoon. "She needs to stay put," she says.

Q: Will there be events in Key West, Fla., to honor the centennial of Hemingway's birth?

A: Ernest Hemingway, who was born in Oak Park, Ill., on July 21, 1899, spent most of the 1930s in Key West, where he wrote "A Farewell to Arms" and other novels. For nearly 20 years, Key West has been celebrating his stay with a series of summer events: arm-wrestling, key lime pie-eating contests, late-night parties at Sloppy Joe's (a Hemingway watering hole) and Hemingway look-alike competitions. Organizers are expecting 25,000 Hemingway fans for this year's 10-day festival, and accommodations are filling up fast.

The festivities begin on Friday with a reception at the Hemingway House, the author's Spanish colonial home. Other events include the Sloppy Joe's birthday party on July 21 (complete with a 500-pound cake) and a three-day marlin-fishing tournament, beginning July 22. Information: 305-294-2918 or www.hemingwaydays.com.

Have a question? Call 404-222-2771; you'll have 30 seconds. Give your name, city and phone number. Or write: Travel Q&A, Features Department, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, P.O. Box 4689, Atlanta, GA 30302. E-mail: dhamilton@ajc.com

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: PASSPORTS & VISAS (94%); IMMIGRATION (93%); WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS (89%); CITIZENSHIP (78%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (78%); SPORT FISHING (77%); FESTIVALS (69%); SPORTS & RECREATION EVENTS (69%); WRITERS (63%); FICTION LITERATURE (62%); NOVELS & SHORT STORIES (62%); TOURNAMENTS (61%)

Company: ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION (60%); ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION (60%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (57%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (57%)

Organization: IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (57%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (57%)

Industry: DRINKING PLACES (72%); FESTIVALS (69%); WRITERS (63%)

Geographic: KEY WEST, FL, USA (93%); ATLANTA, GA, USA (50%); FLORIDA, USA (90%); GEORGIA, USA (79%); ILLINOIS, USA (77%); UNITED STATES (92%); CARIBBEAN ISLANDS (79%)

Load-Date: July 11, 1999