

Federal Register – March 2024

[Key Information and Facilitating Understanding in Informed Consent; Draft Guidance for Sponsors, Investigators, and Institutional Review Boards; Availability, 89 Federal Register 15094, March 1, 2024](#)

NOTIFICATION OF AVAILABILITY: The Office for Human Research Protections, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OHRP), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are announcing the availability of a draft guidance entitled “Key Information and Facilitating Understanding in Informed Consent.” This draft guidance provides recommendations related to two provisions of the revised Federal Policy for the Protection of Human Subjects (the revised Common Rule) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and identical provisions in FDA’s proposed rule “Protection of Human Subjects and Institutional Review Boards.” FDA’s proposed rule, if finalized, would harmonize certain sections of FDA’s regulations on human subject protections and institutional review boards (IRBs), to the extent practicable and consistent with other statutory provisions, with the revised Common Rule, in accordance with the 21st Century Cures Act (Cures Act). The guidance addresses the provisions of the revised Common Rule that require informed consent to begin with key information about the research and to present information in a way that facilitates understanding and identical provisions in FDA’s proposed rule.

COMMENTS DUE: April 30, 2024

[Employment Authorization for Venezuelan F-1 Nonimmigrant Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship as a Direct Result of the Crisis in Venezuela, 89 Federal Register 17500, March 11, 2024](#)

NOTICE: This notice announces that the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) is suspending certain regulatory requirements for F–1 nonimmigrant students whose country of citizenship is Venezuela, regardless of country of birth (or individuals having no nationality who last habitually resided in Venezuela), and who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of the crisis in Venezuela. The Secretary is taking action to provide relief to these Venezuelan students who are in lawful F–1 nonimmigrant student status, so the students may request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain their F–1 nonimmigrant student status. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will deem an F–1 nonimmigrant student granted employment authorization by means of this notice to be engaged in a “full course of study” for the duration of the employment authorization, if the nonimmigrant student satisfies the minimum course load requirement described in this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 11, 2024 – September 10, 2025

[Patent and Trademark Office, Signature Requirements Related to Acceptance of Electronic Signatures for Patent Correspondence, 89 Federal Register 20321, March 22, 2024](#)

FINAL RULE: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) is revising the rules of practice in patent cases to update the signature rule to provide for the broader permissibility of electronic signatures using third-party document-signing software, such as DocuSign® and Acrobat® Sign, and more closely align signature requirements with the rules of practice in trademark cases. The revised rules will

	<p>provide additional flexibility and convenience to patent applicants and owners, practitioners, and other parties who sign patent-related correspondence, and promote consistency by establishing signature requirements which are common to both patent and trademark matters.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: March 22, 2024</p>
<p>Employment Authorization for Nationals of Burma F-1 Nonimmigrant Students Experiencing Severe Economic Hardship as a Direct Result of Current Armed Conflict and the Current Humanitarian Crisis in Burma (Myanmar), 89 Federal Register 20675, March 25, 2024</p>	<p>NOTICE: The Department of Homeland Security is suspending certain regulatory requirements for F–1 nonimmigrant students from Burma who are experiencing severe economic hardship as a direct result of current armed conflict and the current humanitarian crisis in Burma. The Secretary is providing relief to these students who are in lawful F–1 nonimmigrant status, so the students may request employment authorization, work an increased number of hours while school is in session, and reduce their course load while continuing to maintain their F–1 nonimmigrant status.</p> <p>EFFECTIVE DATE: May 26, 2024 – November 25, 2025</p>
<h2>Virginia Register – March 2024</h2>	
<p>Nothing relevant to higher ed this month</p>	