

## **If you were refused a visa under section 214(b): Strong Ties to Home Country**

### **1. What Constitutes ‘Strong Ties’?**

Actually, there is no standard definition for ‘Strong Ties.’ What constitutes strong ties will differ from country to country, city to city, and individual to individual. “Ties” are the various aspects of your life that bind you to your country of residence: your family and social relationships, employment, and possessions. *Some examples of ‘ties’ can be family, a job or business, a house, a bank account, and investments.* Each person’s situation is different.

Consular officers are trained for and aware of this diversity. During the visa interview, they consider professional, social, cultural and other factors each person presents. In cases of younger applicants who may not have had an opportunity to form many ties, consular officers may look at specific intentions, family situations, and long-range plans and prospects within the country of residence.

### **2. Why Do Immigration Officers Place Such High Importance on ‘Strong Ties’?**

It’s very important that you understand the meaning of Strong Ties if you are applying for a visa. The bond that a person shares with his or her country helps the officer determine whether the applicant possesses a residence abroad that they have no intention of abandoning. From an officer’s point of view, an applicant should have such strong ties with his or her home country that they will compel him or her to leave the US at the end of his or her temporary stay to return home.

### **3. What Should You Do in Case of A 214b Visa Rejection?**

If you were refused a visa under section 214(b), you may reapply. When you do, you will have to show further evidence of your ties, or how your circumstances have changed since the time of the original application.

First, carefully review your situation and realistically evaluate your ties. You may want to write down an outline of what qualifying ties you think you have that may not have been properly evaluated at the time of your interview with the consular officer. Also, you should review any documents that were submitted for the consul to consider, and look at what documents could have been presented that weren’t.

It may help to answer the following questions before reapplying:

1. Did you explain your situation accurately?
2. Did the consular officer overlook something?
3. Is there any additional information you can present to establish your residence and strong ties abroad?

If you don’t believe you will be able to provide additional information or additional evidence to show strong ties to your home country, you may want to consider waiting before reapplying.

**NOTE:** *You should also be aware that you will be charged a nonrefundable application fee each time you apply for a visa, regardless of whether the visa is issued.*

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#### **4. Applying for The Visa**

When applying for a nonimmigrant visa, preparation is the key. Applying for a visa to visit, study or work in the U.S. should not be taken for granted. At your visa interview, you should be ready to present your case to the consular officer clearly and precisely. You hardly have a few minutes to convince the officer that you are a good candidate for a nonimmigrant visa. You should have all the points you want to make (ties to your home country) outlined, and you should have all your supporting documents in order.

You should also be very clear about your plans in the U.S. and should be ready to provide specific details if necessary. **You should answer the 5 W's, without hesitation:**

1. Why are you planning to travel to the US?
  2. When are you planning to travel, and how long do you plan to stay?
  3. Where are you going to stay and/or who will you be staying with?
  4. Who are you planning to meet while in the US?
  5. What are you planning to do while in the US?
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#### **Conclusion**

Receiving a 214(b) denial can be discouraging, if not devastating, but it's not the end of the road. While there is no exact definition of "strong ties", you can be successful in reapplying if you are prepared. In our experience, the approval rate for foreign nationals with the proper evidence is very high.

You might want to enlist the help of an immigration attorney that can help you put together the correct presentation for a nonimmigrant visa interview.