



beneficiary at the time of application for the beneficiary's visa (at a U.S. embassy or consulate, port of entry or pre-flight inspection).

DO NOT include spouse or dependents on the principal beneficiary's INS Form I-129.

If the spouse/dependent(s) are **Canadian** citizens, presenting proof of relationship; together with the principal beneficiary's I-797 and valid passport, suffices at a port of entry or pre-flight inspection.

If the spouse/dependent(s) are not Canadian citizens, they will use the principal beneficiary's I-797 Approval Notice to obtain their visas at a U.S. embassy or consulate abroad.

The spouse/dependent(s) of an alien with an O or P visa are not allowed to work unless they file their own I-129 petition.

The duration of a dependent's stay in the United States is the same as that of the primary beneficiary.

THE PETITION

Now that you've determined your classification, it's time to put together the petition. Be meticulous; be consistent in your answers (you'll be repeating information — stick to the same order of facts); be neat; triple-check everything; and arrange the final petition in an organized and easy-to-read format.

From start to finish, the INS timeline looks something like this:

- book performance date/tour; determine INS classification; gather materials needed for INS petition;
- designate petitioner (must be U.S.-based);
- prepare INS petition package;
- send copy of INS petition to labour union(s) for consultation letter(s);
- receive labour consultation(s) (2-10 days); make copies for petition;
- petitioner sends petition (in duplicate) to INS service center;
- send copy of petition to artist;
- artist contacts the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate to obtain forms and instructions for visa application (non-Canadians only);
- petitioner receives Receipt Notice from INS (2-3 weeks);
- petitioner receives I-797 Approval Notice (15-120 days, depending on whether Premium Processing is used);
- petitioner sends original of I-797 to artist;
- if applicable, artist makes appointment with U.S. embassy or consulate to apply for and obtain visas (Canadian nationals need only present the I-797 at port of entry or pre-flight inspection).

Premium Processing Service (PPS) and Deadlines

As of June 1, 2001, with the introduction of the Premium Processing Service (Form I-907), the turnaround time for the four INS service centers can no longer be