



**Keeping Families Together** 

We will begin at 1 p.m. Eastern.

Please enjoy our pre-event slides.

You will need computer speakers or headphones to hear the presentation. There is no dial-in number.

#### **How to Create a USCIS Online Account**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

#### Learn more at <u>uscis.gov/file-online</u>



#### **Did You Move?**





Make sure you receive all notices and documents from USCIS! Give us your new address as soon as you move.

- Update your address quickly in your USCIS online account: <u>my.uscis.gov</u>
- Learn more by visiting our How to Change Your Address page: <u>uscis.gov/addresschange</u>

#### **Don't Miss Our Engagements!**



Visit <u>uscis.gov/outreach</u> for more information.





#### **Electronic Reading Room**



We post many engagement materials at <u>uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room</u>.





## **Sign Up for Email Updates**



Get up-to-date information on

**Keeping Families Together** 

# Sign up today!





#### **Keeping Families Together**



Aug. 19, 2024

## Disclaimer



Materials presented today are for informational purposes only and are not legal advice. The information disseminated and statements made by USCIS personnel today are intended solely for the purpose of providing public outreach to the agency's stakeholders about issues of mutual interest. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit.

#### Reminders

- Email press questions to <u>media@uscis.dhs.gov</u>.
  - Information shared today in this engagement may not be used for media attribution.
- Email questions from congressional offices to <u>usciscongressionalinquiries@uscis.dhs.gov</u>.
- Today's engagement is being recorded.
- Submit questions in Q&A box on the right side of your screen.
- Other questions not related to today's topic can be sent to <u>public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov</u>.





### Today's Agenda

- Process overview
- Criteria
- Documentation
- How to request parole in place
- USCIS resources
- Question-and-Answer session



#### **Today's Speakers**

- Felicia Escobar Carrillo, Chief of Staff, USCIS
- Avideh Moussavian, Chief, Office of Policy & Strategy
- **Amany Ezeldin**, Policy Analyst, Office of Policy & Strategy
- Janna Evans, Issue Resolution Team, Digital Services Division, Office of Access and Information Services









**Felicia Escobar Carrillo**, Chief of Staff, USCIS



# **Office of Policy & Strategy**

#### **Avideh Moussavian**, Chief, Office of Policy & Strategy, USCIS



# **Process Overview**

#### **Amany Ezeldin**, Policy Analyst, Office of Policy & Strategy

#### **Process Overview**



- In June, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a key step toward fulfilling President Biden's commitment to promote family unity in the immigration system.
- DHS established a process to consider, on a case-by-case basis, requests for parole in place from certain noncitizen spouses and stepchildren of U.S. citizens who meet certain criteria and demonstrate that they merit a favorable exercise of discretion.
- On Aug. 19, 2024, DHS posted for public inspection a Federal Register notice implementing the Keeping Families Together process for certain noncitizen spouses and stepchildren of U.S. citizens.
- USCIS started accepting requests on Monday, Aug. 19.

## **Criteria for Spouses of U.S. Citizens**



To be considered for parole in place under this process on a case-by-case basis for up to a three-year period, a noncitizen spouse of a U.S. citizen must:

- Be present in the United States without admission or parole;
- Have 10 years of continuous physical presence in the U.S. as of June 17, 2024 (in other words, since at least June 17, 2014);
- Have a legally valid marriage to a U.S. citizen as of June 17, 2024;
- Have no disqualifying criminal history;
- Not pose a threat to public safety, national security, or border security; and
- Merit a discretionary grant of parole in place for significant public benefit or urgent humanitarian reasons.

# Criteria for Stepchildren of U.S. Citizens



We may also consider certain noncitizen stepchildren (unmarried and under 21 as of June 17, 2024) of a U.S. citizen under this process if they:

- Are present in the United States without admission or parole;
- Have been continuously physically present since at least June 17, 2024;
- Have a parent who entered a legally valid marriage with a U.S. citizen on or before June 17, 2024, and before the child's 18th birthday;
- Have no disqualifying criminal history.
- Do not to pose a threat to public safety or national security; and
- Merit a discretionary grant of parole in place for significant public benefit or urgent humanitarian reasons.

# **Criminal History and Eligibility**



- Disqualifying criminal history includes convictions for certain offenses, including all felonies, and offenses involving firearms, domestic violence, sexual abuse or exploitation, and most drug offenses, among others, regardless of whether the offense is classified as a felony.
- Pending criminal charges will also make an individual ineligible for this process until those charges are resolved.
- Any other criminal convictions, excluding minor traffic offenses, will result in a presumption of ineligibility for parole in place under this process. To overcome the presumption of ineligibility, you must provide documentation demonstrating positive factors that can be considered in overcoming this presumption and showing that you warrant a favorable exercise of discretion.

#### **Process and Fees**



- To be considered for parole in place, an individual must submit the new Form I-131F (Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses and Stepchildren of U.S. Citizens), provide supporting documents, and pay a \$580 fee to USCIS. This is only an online process. Any Forms I-131F that are mailed to USCIS will be rejected.
- There is no fee waiver available for the Form I-131F.
- We will determine on a case-by-case basis if the requestor has demonstrated that:
  - A grant of parole is warranted based on significant public benefit or urgent humanitarian reasons, and
  - They merit a favorable exercise of discretion in the totality of the circumstances.
- We will consider every requestor's immigration history, criminal history, the results of background checks and national security and public safety vetting, and any other relevant information available to or requested by USCIS.

#### **Employment Authorization Document**



- Individuals will not be able to simultaneously request employment authorization with the Form I-131F.
- If granted parole in place, parolees may file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, through their USCIS online account to request an Employment Authorization Document based on being in a current period of parole (category (c)(11)).
- If you want to request a fee waiver, you must file Form I-765 and the fee waiver request on paper.

## **Gather Documentation**

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

#### Organize your evidence:

- Proof of identity, including expired documents if provided with additional documentation (birth certificate with photo identification, valid driver's license, valid passport);
- Proof of your or your noncitizen parent's legally valid marriage to a U.S. citizen as of June 17, 2024 (marriage certificate);
- Proof of termination of all prior marriages (divorce decrees, death certificates, annulment documents);
- Documents that establish you have been continuously physically present in the U.S. for the required period;
- Proof your spouse or stepparent is a U.S. citizen;
- Arrest records and court dispositions for any arrests, charges or convictions; and
- Evidence of additional factors you would like USCIS to consider in the exercise of discretion.
- Stepchildren must also include evidence of your relationship with your noncitizen parent (birth certificate or adoption decree).

#### **IMPORTANT:** Documents containing foreign language must be accompanied by a full English translation.

# **Gather Documentation (cont.)**



#### Organize your evidence to prove continuous physical presence.

- Requirement for <u>spouses</u> of U.S. citizens is since June 17, 2014, through the date of filing your request.
- Requirements for <u>stepchildren</u> of U.S. citizens is since June 17, 2024, through the date of filing your request.
- A few examples are:
  - Rent receipts or utility bills
  - School records
  - Hospital/medical records
  - Birth certificates
  - Dated bank transactions
  - Deeds, mortgages, rental agreements
  - Tax returns or tax transcripts

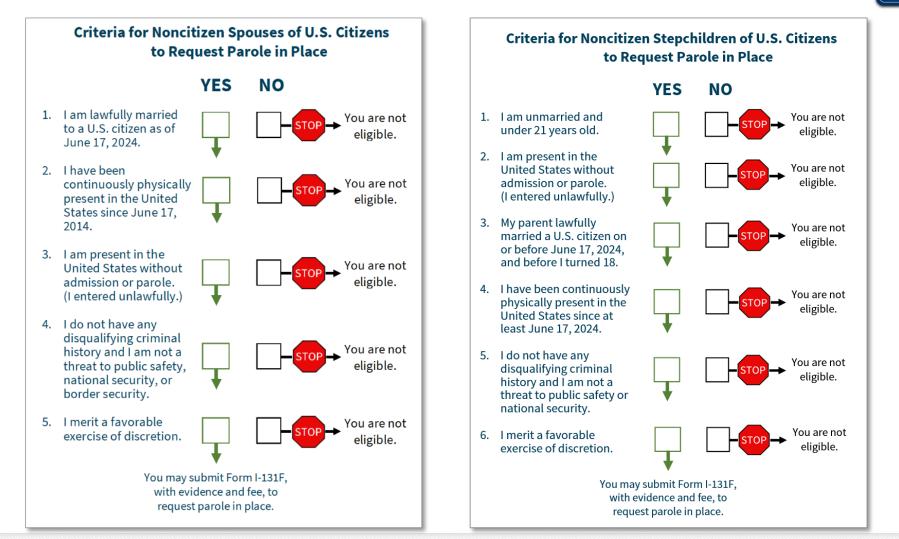


# Form I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses and Stepchildren of U.S. Citizens

Janna Evans, Issue Resolution Team, Digital Services Division, Office of Access and Information Services

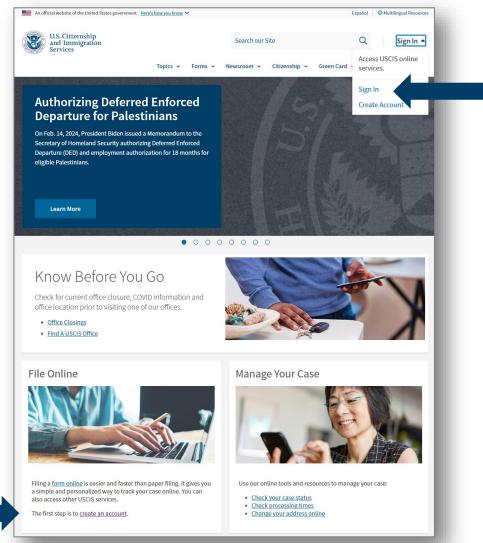
#### **Eligibility Worksheets**





## **Creating a USCIS Online Account**





Bookmark these pages for easy access to your account:

- •<u>www.uscis.gov</u>
- •<u>my.uscis.gov</u>
- •<u>myaccount.uscis.gov</u>

#### Form I-131F—Choosing the Form

Add a

Enter you

add and n

Answ immigr

#### File a Form

Select the form you want to file online. Once you start, we will automatically save your information for 30 days, or from the last time you worked on the form.

<b>Fee waiver:</b> If you are requesting a fee waiver, you cannot file online. You must file a paper versio both the Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver and the form for the specific benefit you are requesti You can review the fee waiver guidance at <u>www.uscis.gov/feewaiver</u> .		isscode d for you itative
Select the form you want to file online.	•	
I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card		k=
I-130, Petition for Alien Relative I-131, Application for Travel Document		ics
I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses and Stepchildren of U.S. Citizens 🖑		
I-134A, Online Request to be a Supporter and Declaration of Financial Support		
I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status	•	



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

## How the Form is Organized



I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses an... **Getting Started**  $\mathbf{\mathbf{v}}$ About You  $\mathbf{\wedge}$ Your name Your contact information When and where you were born Describe yourself Other Information **Processing information** Qualification for parole

- All online forms have left-rail navigation
- Sections expand and collapse
- Left rail is an "index" it tells you where you are

#### Form I-131F—Getting Started



#### Choose Basis of Eligibility

- Spouse of U.S. citizen, or
- Stepchild of U.S. citizen

I-131F, Application fo Parole in Place for Ce Noncitizen Spouses a	ertain	You must complete all fields with an asterisl	k (*) to submit this form.
Getting Started Basis of eligibility Preparer and interprete information	<b>∧</b> ∙r	I am requesting parole in place 212(d)(5)(A) under the Proces Unity and Stability of Familie Spouse of a United States Citize	ss to Promote the s as the: *
About You Evidence	* *	<ul> <li>Stepchild of a United States Cit</li> </ul>	izen
Review and Submit	~	Back	Next

#### Form I-131F—Getting Started (cont.)

I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses an...

Getting Started	
Basis of eligibility	
Preparer and interpreter information	
About You	
Evidence	•
Review and Submit	

You must complete all fields with an asterisk  $({}^{\star})$  to submit this form.

I am requesting parole in place under INA section 212(d)(5)(A) under the Process to Promote the Unity and Stability of Families as the: \*

Spouse of a United States Citizen

• Stepchild of a United States Citizen

What is your parent's I-131F receipt number? (if applicable)

Provide a 13-character receipt number, beginning with 3 capitalized letters followed by 10 digits.



- If you are the stepchild of a U.S. citizen, you do not have to wait for us to approve your noncitizen parent's Form I-131F before you file your form.
- If you have it, you should enter your parent's receipt number on your form.

#### Form I-131F - Personal Information

applica

Next, enter personal information about yourself.

- A-Number (if you have one)
- Form I-94 number (if you have one)
- Marital status
- Online account number (if you have one)

An official website of the United States gove	rnment <u>Here's how you know</u> ~		
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services	My Account 🔻	Resources 💌	Sign Out
pplicant > deltar@test.com > e23fe091-63a	1-4c7b-be5e-916c98406baa 🛯 2 Last login: 2024-08-08 07:04:57 -0700		
I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses an	You must complete all fields with an asterisk (*) to submit this form.		
Getting Started	What is your A-Number?		
About You ^ Your name Your contact information	The A-Number refers to your immigration file number provided by U.S. immigration officials. We use your A-Number to identify your immigration records. It is an eight or nine-digit number that begins with an "A" and can be found on correspondence you have received from DHS or USCIS or on immigration court records.		
When and where you were born	I do not have or know my A-Number.		
Describe yourself	A-		
Other Information Processing information Qualification for parole	Provide a 7, 8, or 9-digit number. If the A-Number is fewer than 9 digits, the system will automatically add zero(s) after the "A" and before the first digit so there is a total of 9 digits, for example: A-001234567.		
Evidence 🗸			
Review and Submit 🔹 🗸			
	What is your U.S. Social Security number (SSN)?		
	I do not have or know my U.S. Social Security number.		
	555-44-3333		



## **Form I-131F - Processing Information**

**Getting Started** 

Your name

About You

born

**Evidence** 

**Review and Submit** 

Describe yourself

Other Information

- Processing information
- Date your continuous physical presence began
- Deportations or arrests, if applicable
- Previous Form I-601A, if applicable

#### I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses an... You must complete all fields with an asterisk (\*) to submit this form. When did you begin your continuous physical $\mathbf{v}$ presence in the United States? \* $\mathbf{A}$ 01/01/2000 Your contact information When and where you were Have you **EVER** been in any exclusion, deportation, removal, or rescission proceedings? \* **Processing information** If you have an unexecuted removal order, or failed to depart the United States pursuant to a grant of voluntary departure, you will be presumed Qualification for parole ineligible for parole in place under this process unless you can establish that there are significant favorable factors that outweigh the removal order $\mathbf{v}$ and any other adverse factors. If you have an executed removal order, you are ineligible for parole in place under this process. ○ Yes Ο Νο



# Form I-131F - Explain How You Qualify



- Tell us how you qualify for parole in place.
- Enter at least 750 characters (2000 max).

I-131F, Application fo Parole in Place for Ce Noncitizen Spouses a	ertain	You must complete all fields with an asterisk (*) to submit th	his form.
Getting Started	~	Explain how you qualify for parole in pla including information regarding the sig	
<b>About You</b> Your name	^	public benefit or urgent humanitarian re warranting a grant of parole, and why ye you merit a favorable exercise of discret	easons ou believe
Your contact informatic		If you have any supporting documents or evidence you wish you will be able to upload them as evidence.	n considered,
born Describe yourself		Provide an explanation. Your answer must be at least 75	0 characters.
Other Information Processing information			
Qualification for parol			
Evidence	~	• You must provide at least 750 characters.	0/2000
Review and Submit	~		
		Back	Next

#### Form I-131F—Organize Your Evidence

- Scan or take a picture of evidence.
- Save each document with a short, descriptive name.
- Pay attention to file format requirements.
- Special characters are not allowed.

#### File requirements

- Clear and readable
- Accepted file formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- No encrypted or password-protected files
- If your documents are in a foreign language, upload a full English translation and the translator's certification with each original document.
- Upload no more than five documents at a time
- Accepted file name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, periods, hyphens, underscores, and parentheses
- Maximum size: 12MB per file

Choose or drop files here to upload



#### Form I-131F—Upload Evidence



#### **Supporting Documents**

- Copy of an official photo identity document.
- Documents that prove:
  - Your spouse or stepparent is a U.S. citizen;
  - Your qualifying relationship to your U.S. citizen spouse or stepparent; and
  - You have lived in the United States continuously since June 17, 2024.
- Documents related to your eligibility:
  - Criminal records, if applicable; and 0
  - Additional evidence to show you warrant 0 parole in place as a matter of discretion.

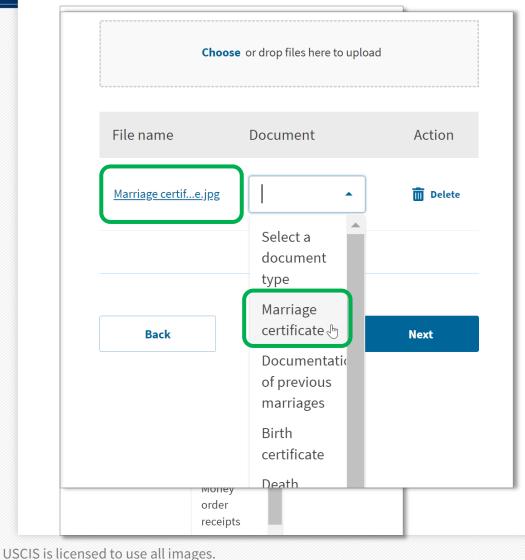
Getting Started	~	Evidence Of
About You	~	Upload a copy of e a U.S. citizen. For
Evidence	^	• U.S. birth cer
Photo identity docum	ent	Naturalizatio
Evidence of your rela	Certificate of	
status as a U.S. Citize	n	Consular Rep
Evidence of qualifying relationship		• U.S. passport
Evidence of continuou	IS	File requireme
physical presence		Clear and rea
Evidence of dispositio	n of	Accepted file
any criminal record		<ul> <li>No encrypted</li> </ul>
Additional evidence		<ul> <li>If your docun translation ar</li> </ul>
Review and Submit	~	document.
		Upload no m
		<ul> <li>Accepted file periods, hypł</li> </ul>
		• Maximum siz

#### Your Relative's Status As A U.S. Citizen

evidence that your relative referenced in Getting Started is example:

- tificate:
- n Certificate:
- Citizenship;
- port of Birth Abroad; or
- ents
- adable
- formats: JPG, JPEG, PDF, TIF or TIFF
- or password-protected files
- nents are in a foreign language, upload a full English nd the translator's certification with each original
- ore than five documents at a time
- name characters: English letters, numbers, spaces, hens, underscores, and parentheses
- e: 12MB per file

## Form I-131F—Labeling Your Evidence



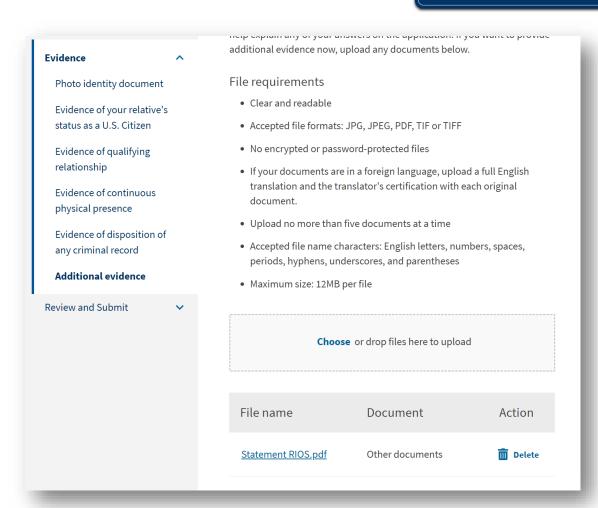
- Give each document you upload a label or a "tag."
- This helps us identify your documents.
- It also helps you keep track of what you have uploaded.



#### Form I-131F—Additional Evidence

#### **Additional Evidence:**

You can provide any additional evidence demonstrating the significant public benefit or urgent humanitarian reasons warranting a grant of parole and evidence of any additional favorable discretionary factors that you would like us to consider, including any information that may be considered in overcoming a rebuttable presumption of ineligibility.



U.S. Citizenship

Services

and Immigration

#### Form I-131F—System Alerts



Noncitizen Spouses		Check your application before you submit Please review your application and check it for accuracy and completeness
Getting Started	~	before you submit it.
About You Evidence	<b>~</b>	We encourage you to provide as many responses as you can throughout the application. Missing or incomplete information may slow down the review process after you submit your application.
Review and Submit	^	You can return to this page to review your application as many times as you want before you submit it.
Review your applicat	ion	
Your application summ	nary	Alerts and warnings
Your signature		
Pay and submit		We found no alerts or warnings in your application.
		Back
	_	

#### System has different alerts:

- RED ALERT Something missing or incorrect, hard stop
- YELLOW ALERT Something may be missing, soft stop
  - BLUE ALERT Informational
- GREEN ALERT Looking good, no errors detected

#### **Form I-131F—Final Review**



I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain	
Noncitizen Spouses an	Review the I-131F form information
Getting Started 🗸 🗸	Here is a summary of all the information you provided in your application. Make sure you have provided responses for everything that applies to you
About You 🗸	before you submit your application. You can edit your responses by going to each application section using the site navigation.
Evidence V Review and Submit	We also prepared a draft case snapshot with your responses, which you can download below.
Review your application	🖄 <u>View draft snapshot</u> 😝 Print
Your application summary Your signature	Getting Started
Pay and submit	Basis of eligibility
	I am requesting parole in place under INA section 212(d)(5)(A) under the Process to Promote the Unity and Stability of Families as the:
	What is your parent's I-131F receipt number? (if applicable)
	Preparer and interpreter information
	Is someone assisting you with completing this application?

Three ways to review your form before you submit it:

- Draft snapshot (PDF version)
- Long vertical scroll of all your data
- Printed version of vertical scroll

#### Form I-131F—Certification & Signature

By my signature, I certify, under penalty of perjury, that I provided or authorized all of the information in my application, I understand all of the information contained in, and submitted with, my application, and that all of this information is complete, true and correct.

#### ✓ I have read and agree to the applicant's statement

#### Applicant's signature

You must provide your digital signature below by typing your full legal name. If you do not completely fill out this application, or if you do not submit the required documents listed in the Instructions, we may deny your application. We will record the date of your signature with your application.

Delta Rios



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

#### **Payment and Case Card**



- Case status
- Case History
- Documents

Υοι	I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses and Stepchildren of U.S. Citizens Submitted on Aug. 20, 2024 Receipt # IOE9369684630				
l- C	View PDF 🔻		of U.S.		
Su	Case Status Case History Documents Case history				
Ci	Case history				
Au	Status	Date			
C	Response To USCIS' Request For Evidence Was Received	Sep. 21, 2024			
Oı se in	We sent a request for additional evidence for your I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses and Stepchildren of U.S. Citizens	Sep. 17, 2024			
Cι	We are actively reviewing your I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen for Certain Noncitizen Spouses and Stepchildren of U.S. Citizens	Sep. 3, 2024			
	We scheduled you for a biometrics appointment	Aug. 20, 2024			
	We received your Form I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses and Stepchildren of U.S. Citizens, and sent you a receipt notice.	Aug. 20, 2024			

#### **Don't Get Scammed – Evite Estafas!**

- Read USCIS materials about this process at <u>uscis.gov/keepingfamiliestogether</u>.
- Do not trust anyone who says they have special connections with the government.
- DO NOT give personal information or send money to a stranger.
- USCIS will **never** call, email, or text you to ask for money.
- USCIS will **never** threaten you with deportation.
- Always use **.gov** websites.
- Low-cost community agencies may be able to help you apply.





<u>uscis.gov/avoidscams</u> <u>uscis.gov/eviteestafas</u>

#### **Important USCIS Resources**

Keeping Families Together <u>uscis.gov/keepingfamiliestogether</u>

Filing Guide for Keeping Families Together <u>uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/uscis-publishes-filing-</u> <u>guide-for-keeping-families-together</u>

USCIS Online Account <u>my.uscis.gov</u>

File Online Filing Tips uscis.gov/file-online

File Online Filing Tips for Attorneys/Accredited Representatives <u>uscis.gov/file-online/online-filing-for-attorneys-and-accredited-representatives</u> USCIS YouTube Channel youtube.com/@uscis

Technical Support for Your Account <u>my.uscis.gov/account/needhelp</u>

Change Your Address uscis.gov/addresschange

Electronic Reading Room uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room

Upcoming Engagements uscis.gov/outreach

Executive Office for Immigration Review <u>https://acis.eoir.justice.gov/en</u>



U.S. Citizenship

Services

and Immigration



#### Question-and-Answer Session



# **Closing Remarks**



- Sign up for e-mail updates: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCIS/subscriber /new
- USCIS Engagements: <u>uscis.gov/outreach</u>
- Electronic Reading Room:
   <u>uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room</u>
- For additional questions, email: <u>public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov</u>
- Follow us on <u>X (formerly Twitter)</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>YouTube</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u>.

**U.S.** Citizenship

Services

and Immigration

## Dissemination



This presentation may not be reproduced or further disseminated without the express written consent of USCIS.

Please contact the Public Engagement Division for additional information at <a href="mailto:public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov">public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov</a>.



#### **About this Presentation**



Author: USCIS

Date of last revision: August 2024

This presentation contains no sensitive Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

Any references in documents or text, with the exception of case law, relate to fictitious individuals.

All images in this presentation are owned by USCIS.







#### Thank you for joining today's national stakeholder engagement.



For more information on our national engagements, visit <u>uscis.gov/outreach.</u>

Follow us on <u>X (formerly Twitter)</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>YouTube</u>, <u>Facebook</u>, and <u>LinkedIn</u>.