



U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

**LPRs Who Travel Overseas:
Travel Documents & Returning
Resident Visas**



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

March 2021

LPRs Who Travel Overseas

- LPRs and CPRs may travel overseas.
- Title 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 211.1(a) discusses documentary requirements for:
 - Arriving noncitizen applying for admission into the United States for lawful permanent residence; and
 - LPRs returning to an unrelinquished lawful permanent residence the U.S.



LPRs Reentering the United States

- Documentation for reentry after temporary travel abroad:
 - Valid, unexpired “Green Card” (Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card); and
 - Identification documents such as:
 - Passport
 - Foreign National ID Card
 - U.S. Driver’s License



LPRs Reentering the United States, *continued*

- Upon reentry, LPR/CPR must establish intention of making U.S. their permanent home.
- LPR/CPR must not have abandoned his/her lawful permanent resident status.
- There are many factors for consideration of abandonment of lawful permanent residence.



Reentry Permits

- Planned absence from the United States for one year or more
- Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, to obtain a reentry permit
- Reentry permit generally negates need for Returning Resident Visa (SB-1)
- Reentry permit does not guarantee reentry

*Note: SB-1 visa required if outside the U.S. more than 2 years.

Filing Form I-131 with USCIS

- File Form I-131 according to filing instructions on USCIS website:
www.uscis.gov
- Remain in the United States while Form I-131 is pending
- Form I-131 considered abandoned if applicant departs prior to USCIS's decision
 - *Also true for pending Form I-485/Form I-131



USCIS Form I-131 Page

What This Form Can Help You Do

[Humanitarian Parole](#)

[Travel Outside the U.S. as a Permanent Resident](#)

Forms and Document Downloads

[Form I-131 \(PDF, 454.56 KB\)](#)

[Instructions for Form I-131 \(PDF, 284.74 KB\)](#)

Form Details

[Close All](#) [Open All](#)

Edition Date	▼
Where to File	▼
Filing Fee	▼
Checklist of Required Initial Evidence (for informational purposes only)	▼
Special Instructions	▼
Related Links	▼

[Close All](#) [Open All](#)



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

U.S. VISAS

U.S. Department of State • Bureau of Consular Affairs



Returning Residents

Office of Visa Services

Form I-131A for Lost/Stolen/Destroyed I-551

- LPRs with lost/stolen/destroyed/expired Permanent Resident Cards may file a Form I-131A for an LPR boarding foil if they have been outside the United States for less than one year
- LPRs whose re-entry permit was lost/stolen/expired may file a Form I-131A before the expiration of their re-entry permit
- Conditional permanent residents applying after their two-year anniversary must show proof that they applied for removal of conditional status
- Must pay filing fee online before appearing in person at a Consular Section overseas



Returning Resident Visas (SB-1)

- New immigrant visa required for LPRs or CPRs who have stayed out longer than one year or past validity of re-entry permit
- Qualifications: LPR, intent to return, protracted stay beyond control of the individual
- Two Step Process
 - DS-117
 - DS-260 and IV interview
- Must pay DS-117 fee and IV fee, obtain medical exam, police certificates, and other docs requested by Consular Section



Resources

- USCIS Website: www.uscis.gov
- USCIS Form I-131 Page: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-131>
- USCIS info page: International Travel for Permanent Residents: <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/explore-my-options/travel-outside-the-us-as-a-permanent-resident>
- Department of State Returning Resident page: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/returning-resident.html>

*Note: Slides 8, 9, and 10 belong to DOS



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

About this Presentation

- Author: USCIS Service Center Operations
- Date of last revision: 03/17/2021. This presentation is current only as of the date of last revision.
- 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: USCIS with exception of slides 8, 9 and 10 which were sourced from the Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs.



Disclaimer

- This training module is intended solely as informational. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create or confer any right(s) or benefit(s), substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any individual or other party in benefit applications before USCIS, in removal proceedings, in litigation with the United States, or in any other form or manner. This training module does not have the force of law, or of a DHS directive.



Dissemination

- This presentation may not be reproduced or further disseminated without the express written consent of USCIS .
- Please contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs, Operations and Field Coordination Division for additional information.





U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services