



Adjustment of Status (AOS) U.S. Citizen Spouse Petition Guide

Butterfly Dreamers and Their Families Support Network

This educational guide was created to help immigrant families better understand the Adjustment of Status (AOS) process through marriage to a United States citizen. The purpose of this guide is to provide general educational information, filing organization tips, and explanations of commonly used immigration forms.

Our Mission

Butterfly Dreamers and Their Families Support Network is dedicated to supporting immigrant families through education, community guidance, and access to publicly available immigration information. We believe knowledge empowers families to make informed decisions and better prepare for their immigration journey.

Disclaimer: This guide is for educational purposes only. We are not attorneys and do not provide legal advice. Immigration laws, forms, filing fees, and USCIS procedures may change at any time. Always confirm current information directly through USCIS or consult a licensed immigration attorney or DOJ accredited representative when necessary.

What is Adjustment of Status (AOS)?

Adjustment of Status (AOS) is the process that allows certain individuals already physically present inside the United States to apply for lawful permanent residence (a green card) without needing to leave the country for consular processing. Many applicants qualify through marriage to a U.S. citizen. In many marriage-based cases, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens may still qualify for Adjustment of Status even after a visa overstay, depending on the circumstances of the case.

Basic Eligibility Requirements

To generally qualify for Adjustment of Status, applicants may need to meet the following requirements:

- A U.S. Citizen Spouse
Submit all required forms and supporting evidence.
- Attend biometrics appointments and interviews if require
- Be physically present in the United States.
- Have been inspected and admitted or paroled into the country.
- Have an immigrant visa immediately available.
- Be admissible under immigration law.

Important Immigration Records to Review

Before filing, many applicants choose to gather and review their immigration history records. This may include:

- USCIS FOIA records
 - CBP travel history
 - I-94 arrival records
 - Previous immigration applications
 - Immigration court records if applicable
 - Criminal disposition records if any arrests occurred
- Reviewing records may help identify potential issues before filing.



Required Forms for Most Marriage-Based AOS Cases

Form I-130: Petition for Alien Relative

Used by the U.S. citizen spouse to establish the qualifying relationship.

Form I-130A: Supplemental Information for Spouse Beneficiary

Provides additional biographical information regarding the immigrant spouse.

Form I-485: Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status

Main application used to request permanent residence.

Form I-864: Affidavit of Support

Financial sponsorship contract between sponsor and U.S. government.

Form I-693: Medical Examination and Vaccination Record

Medical examination completed by a USCIS-authorized civil surgeon.



Optional Forms

Form I-765: Application for Employment Authorization

Allows applicants to request a work permit while the AOS application remains pending. **Form I-131:**

Application for Travel Document

May allow travel outside the United States while the AOS remains pending. Not every applicant needs every optional form. Some individuals may already have valid work authorization or may not plan to travel.

Evidence Commonly Included in Marriage-Based Cases

Examples of supporting evidence may include:

- Marriage certificate/Divorce Decree
- Birth certificates of children together
- Joint bank accounts
- Lease agreements or mortgage statements
- Utility bills
- Insurance policies
- Tax returns
- Photos together
- Affidavits from friends and family



Proof of Lawful Entry

Many AOS cases require proof of lawful admission or parole into the United States. Examples may include:

- I-94 arrival record
- Visa stamp
- Entry stamp in passport
- Advance Parole documents
- Parole in Place approval
- Border crossing records Applicants should maintain copies of all travel and immigration documents whenever possible.

▲ For: FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Securing America's Borders

Most Recent I-94

Note to employers, local, state or federal agency granting benefits: Please visit the CBP I-94/I-95 Website and click on the tab for "Get Most Recent I-94/I-95" to perform a search for the applicant to confirm that the biographic and travel information displayed on this I-94/I-95 printout matches the "Get Most Recent I-94/I-95" returned results for this applicant. Reference the CBP I-94/I-95 Website FAQs.

Admission I-94 Record Number: _____
 Arrival/Issued Date: _____
 Class of Admission: _____
 Admit Until Date: _____
 Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last/Surname: _____
 First (Given) Name: _____
 Birth Date: _____
 Document Number: _____
 Country of Citizenship: _____

▶ Effective April 26, 2013, DHS began automating the admission process. An alien lawfully admitted or paroled into the U.S. is no longer required to be in possession of a preprinted Form I-94/I-95. A record of admission printed from the CBP website constitutes a lawful record of admission. See 8 CFR § 1.4(d).

▶ What to do if someone requests your admission info: If an employer, local, state or federal agency requests admission information, present your admission (I-94/I-95) number along with any additional required documents requested by that employer or agency.

▶ For security, close your browser after retrieving your I-94/I-95 number.

1488 I-94/I-95
Expiration Date: 03/30/2020

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Form I-864 Financial Sponsorship

The Affidavit of Support is one of the most important parts of a marriage-based Adjustment of Status case. The sponsor may need to provide:

- Most recent federal tax return or IRS transcript
- W-2s or 1099s
- Pay stubs
- Employment verification letter
- Proof of U.S. citizenship or residency
- Some Beneficiaries applicants may qualify for exemptions depending on their circumstances with 40 qualifying Social Security work credits.



Medical Examination Information

The immigration medical examination must be completed by a USCIS-designated civil surgeon. Important reminders:

- The medical exam is generally sealed by the doctor. **Make sure to send it with your packet.**

- Do not open the sealed envelope unless instructed otherwise.
- Vaccination records are important.
- Bring identification and prior vaccine records to the appointment.
- Fees vary depending on the clinic. Always verify current USCIS validity rules for Form I-693 before filing.

IMMIGRATION MEDICAL EXAM
A required step for many U.S. immigration benefits and green card applications.

WHAT IS THE IMMIGRATION MEDICAL EXAM?
The immigration medical exam is conducted by a USCIS-approved civil surgeon to ensure applicants are not inadmissible to the U.S. based on health-related grounds.

WHAT IT INCLUDES

- Physical examination: Review of medical history and overall health
- Vaccinations: Required vaccines based on age and medical history
- TB testing: Tuberculosis screening, usually by chest X-ray
- Laboratory tests: If needed, additional tests may be required
- Medical documentation: Results recorded on Form I-693 by the civil surgeon

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- Find a USCIS-approved civil surgeon. You can find one at uscis.gov/indiafactor.
- Schedule your exam early. Results are valid for 2 years from the date of the exam.
- Bring required documents. Photo ID, vaccination records, and any medical history if available.
- You will receive a sealed envelope. Do not open it. Submit it with your immigration application.
- NOTE: The civil surgeon will provide the sealed envelope. Do not open it. Opening it may delay your case.

Cover Letter Recommendations

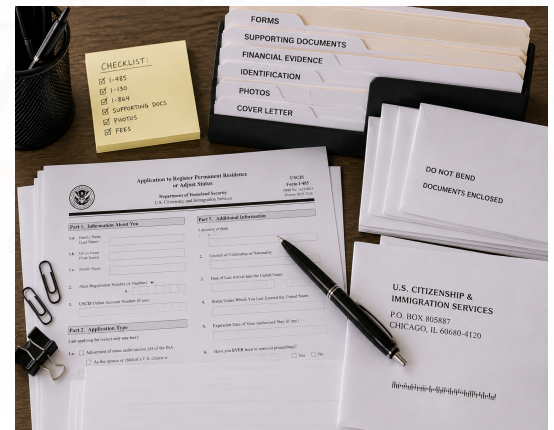
A cover letter may help organize the application packet clearly for USCIS officers. A good cover letter often includes:

- Applicant and petitioner information
- List of forms included
- List of supporting evidence
- Filing fee information
- Short explanation of the case if needed Well-organized packets may help reduce confusion during processing.



Packet Assembly Tips

- Use black ink when signing forms.
- Do not leave required sections blank unless instructed.
- Review every page carefully before mailing.
- Avoid staples when possible.
- Use tabs or dividers for organization.
- Keep a complete copy of everything submitted.
- Mail using tracking whenever possible.



Interview Information

Some marriage-based cases require an interview with USCIS. Common interview topics may include:

Relationship history

- Daily life together
- Shared finances
- Living arrangements
- Family information Applicants should review their forms and supporting evidence before attending an interview.

Mailing Addresses

USCIS lockbox addresses may vary depending on the state where the applicant lives and whether the packet is mailed through USPS or courier services such as FedEx or UPS. Always verify the most updated filing address directly through USCIS before mailing the packet.

 <h3>USCIS DALLAS LOCKBOX</h3> <p>If you live in: Texas</p> <table><tr><td>USPS Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS P.O. Box 650288 Dallas, TX 75265-0288</td><td>FedEx, UPS, DHL Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS (Box 650288) 2501 S. State Hwy. 121 Business Suite 400 Lewisville, TX 75067-8003</td></tr></table>	USPS Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS P.O. Box 650288 Dallas, TX 75265-0288	FedEx, UPS, DHL Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS (Box 650288) 2501 S. State Hwy. 121 Business Suite 400 Lewisville, TX 75067-8003	 <h3>USCIS ELGIN LOCKBOX</h3> <p>If you live in: Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin.</p> <table><tr><td>USPS Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS P.O. Box 4109 Carol Stream, IL 60197-4109</td><td>FedEx, UPS, DHL Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS (Box 4109) 2500 Westfield Drive Elgin, IL 60124-7836</td></tr></table>	USPS Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS P.O. Box 4109 Carol Stream, IL 60197-4109	FedEx, UPS, DHL Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS (Box 4109) 2500 Westfield Drive Elgin, IL 60124-7836
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 <h3>USCIS PHOENIX LOCKBOX</h3> <p>If you live in: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wyoming</p> <table><tr><td>USPS Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS P.O. Box 20500 Phoenix, AZ 85036-0500</td><td>FedEx, UPS, DHL Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS (Box 20500) 2108 E. Elliot Rd. Tempe, AZ 85284-1806</td></tr></table>	USPS Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS P.O. Box 20500 Phoenix, AZ 85036-0500	FedEx, UPS, DHL Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS (Box 20500) 2108 E. Elliot Rd. Tempe, AZ 85284-1806	 <h3>USCIS CHICAGO LOCKBOX</h3> <p>If you live in: California, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Florida, Guam, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont</p> <table><tr><td>USPS Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS P.O. Box 805887 Chicago, IL 60680</td><td>FedEx, UPS, DHL Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS (Box 805887) 131 S. Dearborn St., 3rd Floor Chicago, IL 60603-5517</td></tr></table>	USPS Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS P.O. Box 805887 Chicago, IL 60680	FedEx, UPS, DHL Mailing Address: USCIS Attn: AOS (Box 805887) 131 S. Dearborn St., 3rd Floor Chicago, IL 60603-5517
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 **IMPORTANT** |  Always verify the latest USCIS instructions before mailing. |  Use USPS for P.O. Boxes and FedEx/UPS, DHL for physical addresses.

 **DISCLAIMER:** For educational purposes only.

Important Reminders

Every immigration case is unique. Some applicants may require additional waivers, court records, translations, or supporting evidence. If an applicant has:

- Criminal history
- Prior deportation orders
- Immigration court proceedings
- Fraud or misrepresentation concerns
- Unlawful presence issues They should strongly consider speaking with a licensed immigration attorney or accredited representative.

Community Support and Education

Butterfly Dreamers and Their Families Support Network believes education and preparation are powerful tools for immigrant communities. Our goal is to help families understand immigration processes, stay informed, and feel supported throughout their journey.

General Filing Fee Reminder

USCIS filing fees frequently change. Applicants should always verify the most current filing fees directly through USCIS before submitting any packet. Examples of forms that commonly require filing fees include:

- Form I-130 • Form I-485 • Form I-765 • Form I-131
- Incorrect payments may cause packet rejection.
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Butterfly Dreamers and Their Families Support Network

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