



Adjustment of Status (AOS) Parents of U.S. Citizens 21+ 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 for parents being petitioned by their United States citizen son or daughter who is at least 21 years old.

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

Who Can Petition a Parent?

A United States citizen who is at least 21 years old may generally petition certain parents for lawful permanent residence. The petitioner must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
 - Be at least 21 years old
 - Prove the qualifying parent-child relationship/ Step Parent
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What is Adjustment of Status (AOS)?

Adjustment of Status allows eligible immigrants already physically present in the United States to apply for a green card without leaving the country. Parents of U.S. citizens are considered immediate relatives under immigration law. Immediate relatives usually do not need to wait for a visa number to become available.

Basic Eligibility Requirements

General eligibility requirements may include:

- Physical presence inside the United States

- Lawful admission or parole into the country
 - Admissibility under immigration law
 - Proper filing of required forms and supporting evidence
- Some immediate relatives may still qualify for Adjustment of Status after certain visa overstay, depending on the case.

Important Immigration Records to Review

Before filing, many families choose to review immigration history records such as:

- I-94 travel history
 - USCIS records
 - CBP entry history
 - Immigration court records if applicable
 - Prior immigration filings
 - Criminal disposition records if any arrests occurred
- Reviewing records may help identify possible issues before filing.

Required Forms for Parent AOS Cases

Form I-130 – Petition for Alien Relative

Filed by the U.S. citizen child.

Form I-485 – Application to Register Permanent Residence

Form I-864 – Affidavit of Support

Financial sponsorship form.

Form I-693 – Medical Examination and Vaccination Record

Completed by a USCIS-authorized civil surgeon.

COMMON IMMIGRATION FORMS
FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

These are examples of commonly used USCIS forms. Make sure you use the most current version available on the USCIS website (www.uscis.gov) and follow all instructions carefully.

- I-130** Petition for Alien Relative
- I-485** Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status
- I-864** Affidavit of Support Under Section 213A of the INA
- I-693** Report of Immigration Medical Examination and Vaccination Record

IMPORTANT REMINDER
Always use the most current form from www.uscis.gov. Forms and fees can change. Read all instructions carefully before submitting.

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Optional Forms

Form I-765 – Employment Authorization

Allows applicants to request a work permit while the case is pending.

Form I-131 – Travel Document /Advance Parole

May allow travel outside the United States while the Adjustment of Status application remains pending.

Important Supporting Evidence

Examples of evidence commonly included:

- Parent's birth certificate/ with Certified Translation
- Child's birth certificate showing parent relationship
- U.S. citizen child's proof of citizenship
- Passport-style photos
- I-94 records
- Entry documents
- Marriage Certificate To Prove Step Parent Married Before 18yr old/showing parent relationship

FOIA REQUESTS FOR CBP IMMIGRATION RECORDS
You have the right to request your U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) records under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

1. WHAT IS FOIA?
The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) allows individuals to request records from federal agencies, including CBP.

2. CBP IMMIGRATION RECORDS YOU CAN REQUEST
• Travel history
• Entry/exit records
• I-94 records
• Secondary inspection records
• Detention records
• Expedited removal records
• Other records related to immigration inspections and encounters

3. TRAVEL HISTORY
CBP maintains records of your arrivals, departures, and inspections when entering or leaving the United States.
May include:
• Dates of travel
• Ports of entry
• I-94 admission records
• Inspection and encounter notes

4. CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS & CRIMINAL RECORDS
CBP may have information related to your criminal history if it was part of an immigration enforcement action.
May include:
• Arrest records
• Charges
• Court dispositions
• Convictions
• Sentencing information

5. HOW TO SUBMIT A FOIA REQUEST TO CBP
Online: <https://www.cbp.gov/about/foia/submit-a-request>
Email: FOIA@cbp.dhs.gov
Mail: FOIA Division, CBP, 1000 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20535
Include as much detail as possible to help CBP locate your records (e.g., name, date of birth, dates of travel, etc.).

6. CRIMINAL RECORDS VS. IMMIGRATION RECORDS
CRIMINAL RECORDS: Maintained by local, state, or federal law enforcement agencies and courts. Request through state repositories, TLS, or local agencies.
IMMIGRATION RECORDS (CBP): Resulting from your interactions with CBP at US ports of entry or within the U.S. Request through CBP using FOIA.

7. IMPORTANT INFORMATION
• There may be fees associated with your request.
• CBP will respond within 20 working days, with the possibility of a 30-day extension.
• Some information may be withheld for law enforcement, national security, or privacy reasons.
• You have the right to appeal if your request is denied.

8. WHY REQUEST YOUR RECORDS?
Review for accuracy | Help with immigration benefits or applications | Understand past encounters with CBP | Address possible issues or errors

YOUR PRIVACY MATTERS
CBP is committed to protecting your personal information. FOIA allows you to review your records and ensure they are accurate and complete.

TIP
Keep a copy of your request and any response from CBP for your records.

QUESTIONS?
<https://www.cbp.gov/about/foia>
Email: FOIA@cbp.dhs.gov

Proof of U.S. Citizenship

The U.S. citizen child may commonly provide:

- U.S. birth certificate
- U.S. passport
- Naturalization certificate
- Certificate of citizenship

PROOF OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS

These documents are commonly used to prove U.S. citizenship. Make sure your document is clear, complete, and legible when submitting.

U.S. BIRTH CERTIFICATE

- Issued by a city, county, or state vital records office
- Must show name, date of birth, and place of birth
- Must be an original or certified copy

CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION

- Issued by USCIS after a person becomes a U.S. citizen
- Shows date and place of naturalization
- Must be an original or certified copy

U.S. PASSPORT

- Issued by the U.S. Department of State
- Shows U.S. citizenship and identity
- Must be unexpired or expired less than 5 years

Always review your document to make sure it is valid and matches the information on your application. Upload clear, complete copies of the entire document (front and back if applicable).

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Proof of Lawful Entry

Many Adjustment of Status cases require proof that the parent was lawfully admitted or paroled into the United States. Examples may include:

- Visa entry stamp
 - I-94 admission record
 - Advance Parole documents
 - Parole in Place documentation
- Not every parent may qualify for Adjustment of Status depending on how they entered the country and other immigration history factors.

ADVANCE PAROLE DOCUMENT (FORM I-512L)

For Educational Purposes Only

This is an example of an Advance Parole Document (Form I-512L) which allows DACA recipients to travel and re-enter the U.S.

FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

NOTE TO EMPLOYER: Not valid for re-entry to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. Please submit this original document to your employer. The 8-digit number is a unique number used by the Department of Homeland Security. To be admitted, validation of your I-94 in the U.S. is required.

Admission (Port) Record Number: _____

Admit Until Date: _____

Class of Admission: _____

Admit Until Date: _____

Details provided on the I-94 Information form:

Last Name: _____

First (Given) Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Document Number: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____

► Effective April 26, 2015, DHS began automating the admission process. As an important part of this process, DHS will issue a paper Form I-512L to travelers who are not U.S. citizens or U.S. nationals (except Canadians). For more information, see 8 CFR § 1.4.

► When I-512L is not issued, instead, you will receive a printed receipt of the information that is in your electronic record. You may be able to obtain your I-94 number/record inquiry number from the CBP website at www.dhs.gov/I-94.

► For security, class your personnel after retrieving your I-94-54 number.

Form I-512L (Rev. 08-2015) (Page 1 of 2)

VISA STAMP IN PASSPORT

IMMIGRATION TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Border Crossing Card

Refugee Travel Document

Travel Document

Advance Parole allows you to travel outside the U.S. and return. Always check your document for validity dates and travel requirements.

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Financial Sponsorship Requirements

The U.S. citizen child generally must submit Form I-864 Affidavit of Support. Supporting evidence may include:

- IRS tax transcripts
 - W-2s or 1099s
 - Pay stubs
 - Employment verification letter
- Some cases may require a joint sponsor if income requirements are not met.

1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, 2023

W-2 OR 1099s

PAY STUBS

EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION LETTER

PASSPORT

PROOF OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP OR RESIDENCY (PASSPORT, GREEN CARD, OR NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE)

SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

40 WORK CREDITS

Medical Examination Information

Form I-693 must generally be completed by a USCIS-authorized civil surgeon. Important reminders:

- Bring vaccination records if available
- Fees vary by clinic
- Do not open sealed medical packets unless instructed otherwise

IMMIGRATION MEDICAL EXAM

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

Certified Civil Surgeon

Required Vaccinations

Medical Examination

Sealed Envelope Submitted to USCIS

USCIS Approval

WHAT IS THE IMMIGRATION MEDICAL?

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
- Vaccinations
- TB testing
- Laboratory tests
- Medical documentation

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- Find a USCIS-approved civil surgeon.
- Schedule your exam early.
- Bring required documents.
- You will receive a sealed envelope.

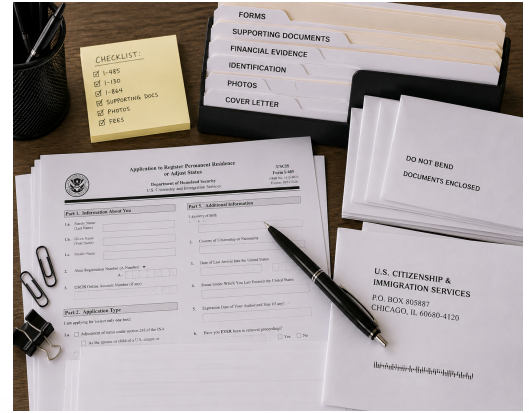
NOTE: The civil surgeon will provide the sealed envelope. Do not open it until you submit your immigration application.

Cover Letter and Packet Organization

Many applicants include a cover letter to organize the packet clearly.

Helpful organization tips:

- Use tabs or dividers
- Keep forms in logical order
- Label supporting evidence clearly
- Keep copies of everything submitted
- Mail with tracking whenever possible



Interview Information

Some parent Adjustment of Status cases may require an interview.

USCIS may ask questions regarding:

- Family relationship
- Immigration history
- Entry information
- Financial sponsorship information Applicants should review their forms before attending any interview.

Important Reminders

Every immigration case is unique.

Applicants with:

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

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.

 USCIS DALLAS LOCKBOX If you live in: Texas 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	 USCIS ELGIN LOCKBOX 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. 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
 USCIS PHOENIX LOCKBOX If you live in: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wyoming 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	 USCIS CHICAGO LOCKBOX 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 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

Community Education and Support

Butterfly Dreamers and Their Families Support Network is committed to supporting immigrant families through education, community guidance, and access to publicly available immigration information.

General Filing Reminder

USCIS filing fees, addresses, and forms may change at any time. Always:

- Verify current USCIS filing fees
 - Confirm mailing addresses directly through USCIS
 - Use the newest edition of forms from USCIS.gov
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Butterfly Dreamers and Their Families Support Network

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www.dreamerssupportnetwork.org**

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