



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Asylum



ALERT: Affirmative Asylum Interview Scheduling

Every year people come to the United States seeking protection because they have suffered persecution or fear that they will suffer persecution due to:

- Race
- Religion
- Nationality
- Membership in a particular social group
- Political opinion

If you are eligible for asylum you may be permitted to remain in the United States. To apply for Asylum, file a [Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal](#), within one year of your arrival to the United States. There is no fee to apply for asylum.

You may include your spouse and children who are in the United States on your application at the time you file or at any time until a final decision is made on your case. To include your child on your application, the child must be under 21 and unmarried. For more information see our Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal page.

If you have an asylum application pending with us, you can check your case status online. All you need is the receipt number that we mailed you after you filed your application. Start here: uscis.gov/casestatus.

Permission to Work in the United States

You cannot apply for permission to work (employment authorization) in the United States at the same time you apply for asylum.

You may apply for employment authorization if:

- 150 days have passed since you filed your complete asylum application, excluding any delays caused by you (such as a request to reschedule your interview) **AND**
- No decision has been made on your application

If you are granted asylum you may work immediately. Some [asylee](#) choose to obtain Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) for convenience or identification purposes, but an EAD is not necessary to work if you are an asylee.

To apply for employment authorization, you must file a [Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization](#). There is no fee to apply for your first EAD if you have a pending asylum application or if you have been granted asylum. For more information see our Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization page.

See the [180-Day Asylum EAD Clock Notice \(PDF, 149 KB\)](#) and the [ABT Settlement Agreement](#) for further information.

ALERT: If you are applying for your initial (first) employment authorization based on having a pending asylum application, you may be a member of the class action case, *Rosario v. USCIS*, Case No. C15-0813JLR (W.D. Wash. July 26, 2018). To learn more, visit the [Rosario Class Action](#) page.

[Bringing Your Family to the United States](#)



[Filing for Permanent Residence \(Green Card\)](#)



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