



[Home](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [All News](#) > [Alerts](#) > New Photo Policy Helps Prevent Immigration Fraud Through Enhanced Identity Verification

# New Photo Policy Helps Prevent Immigration Fraud Through Enhanced Identity Verification

Release Date : 12/12/2025

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing new [guidance \(PDF, 305.52 KB\)](#) that limits the age of foreign nationals' photos that can be used to create immigration documents to no more than three years. This update enhances national security and prevents identity fraud.

Effective immediately, the new guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual limits the use of photos to those that were taken within three years of the date a person files a USCIS form. Additionally, self-submitted photos will no longer be accepted. Only photos taken by USCIS or other authorized entities will be used. This ensures every photo used in a secure document is recent, accurate, and reliable—key requirements to preventing fraud and identity theft.

Robust screening and vetting processes are critical to protecting the security and integrity of the U.S. immigration system. COVID-19-era flexibilities, which allowed the reuse of photos for up to 10 years even if a person's appearance changed significantly, were kept in place longer than necessary. This compromised USCIS' ability to verify, identify, and properly screen aliens.

This policy change aligns with Department of Homeland Security priorities to modernize screening and vetting processes and address the vulnerabilities in identity documents.

Certain forms will require a new photo, regardless of when an applicant's or petitioner's last photograph was taken. These include [Form I-90, Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card](#); [Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#); [Form N-400, Application for Naturalization](#); and [Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship](#).

This policy guidance is effective as of the date of this publication.

For more information, see the [Policy Alert \(PDF, 305.52 KB\)](#).

Last Reviewed/Updated: 12/12/2025

