



[Home](#) > [Humanitarian](#) > [Refugees and Asylum](#) > Asylum

Asylum

ALERT: Updated Interview Rescheduling Procedures for Affirmative Asylum Interviews

[See less](#) 

Starting Aug. 21, 2026, you must establish exceptional circumstances for USCIS to reschedule your asylum interview.

Additionally, we will no longer issue a Failure to Appear Warning notice after a missed interview. If you maintain a lawful basis to remain in the United States and you fail to appear for your interview without submitting a request to reschedule, either before your interview date or within 10 calendar days after your missed interview date, we may dismiss your asylum application. If you do not maintain a lawful basis to remain in the United States, we may refer your case to an immigration judge.

Note: If you are a parolee who fails to appear for your asylum interview, USCIS will make a determination as to whether the purposes of parole have been served and determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether to terminate your parole and refer your case to an immigration judge.

Information about rescheduling an asylum interview and establishing exceptional circumstances will be available on the [Establishing Exceptional Circumstances for Rescheduling Affirmative Asylum Interviews](#) webpage once the new procedures are in effect.

ALERT: Updated Evidence Submission Policy for Affirmative Asylum Applications

[See more](#) 

ALERT: Updated Biometric Appointment Rescheduling Procedures for Aliens Who Have Filed for Affirmative Asylum

[See more](#) 



i ALERT: Effective May 18, 2026, USCIS will no longer permit attorneys and accredited representatives to participate remotely in interviews at field offices and in affirmative asylum and Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) 203 interviews at asylum offices, except in limited circumstances. All legal representatives must be physically present to attend these interviews.

i ALERT: Court Order on Circumvention of Lawful Pathways Final Rule

[See more](#) 

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

You may only file this application if you are physically present in the United States, and you are not a U.S. citizen.

At this time, the option to file an online [Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal](#) is only available for certain affirmative asylum applicants. Affirmative asylum applicants may not file an online Form I-589 if they:

- Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal
- Are an unaccompanied alien child as defined in 6 U.S.C. § 279(g) and are in removal proceedings;
- Are among the categories of applicants who must currently file by mail with the Asylum Vetting Center as outlined in the Special Instructions section of our [Form I-589](#) webpage; or
- Already submitted a Form I-589, which is still pending with USCIS.

If you are eligible for asylum you may be permitted to remain in the United States. To apply for asylum affirmatively or defensively, file a Form I-589 within 1 year of your arrival to the United States. Visit our [Obtaining Asylum in the United States](#) page for more information on affirmative and defensive filings.

You may include your spouse and children who are physically present in the United States as dependents on your affirmative or defensive asylum application at the time you file or at any time until a final decision is made on your application. To include your child as a dependent on your application, the child must be under 21 years old and unmarried. For more information see our Form I-589 page.

If you were placed in expedited removal proceedings, received a positive credible fear determination, and USCIS retained your asylum application for further consideration in an Asylum Merits Interview, please visit our [Asylum](#)

If you have an asylum application pending with us, you can check the status of your application at [Case Status Online](#). You will need the receipt number that we provided you after you filed your application.

[↗ Close All](#) [↖ Open All](#)

Permission to Work in the United States	▼
Bringing Your Family to the United States	▼
Filing for Permanent Residence (Green Card)	▼
Related Links	▼

[↗ Close All](#) [↖ Open All](#)

Last Reviewed/Updated: 08/07/2026