



Instructions for Application for Travel Document

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS
Form I-131
OMB No. 1615-0013
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What Is the Purpose of This Form?

Use this form to apply for the following travel documents from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):

1. Reentry Permit

A Reentry Permit allows a lawful permanent resident or a conditional permanent resident to apply for admission to the United States upon returning from abroad during the permit's validity without the need to obtain a returning resident visa from a U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate.

2. Refugee Travel Document

We issue a Refugee Travel Document to an alien in valid refugee or asylee status, or to a lawful permanent resident who obtained such status as a refugee or asylee in the United States. Aliens who hold asylee or refugee status and are not lawful permanent residents must have a Refugee Travel Document to return to the United States after traveling abroad, unless they possess an Advance Parole Document. A U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officer at the U.S. port of entry will determine your admissibility when you present your travel document.

3. Temporary Protected Status (TPS) Related Travel Authorization

We may grant applicants with a pending initial TPS application who are prima facie eligible for TPS and aliens who have been granted TPS discretionary travel authorization. If we approve travel authorization in either instance, we will issue the alien a Form I-512, Advance Parole Document, under the applicable authority. Please see Important Notes further in these Instructions regarding travel abroad while in TPS or with a pending initial TPS application.

4. Advance Parole Document for Aliens Who Are Currently in the United States

Parole allows an alien to physically enter into the United States for a specific purpose. An alien who has been paroled has not been admitted into the United States and remains an "applicant for admission" even while paroled.

DHS, as a matter of discretion, may issue an Advance Parole Document to authorize an alien to appear at a port-of-entry to seek parole into the United States. A transportation company may accept the document in place of a visa as an authorization to travel to the United States. An Advance Parole Document is not issued to serve in place of any required passport. An Advance Parole Document cannot be used solely to circumvent normal visa issuance procedures and is not a means to bypass delays in visa issuance.

WARNING: An Advance Parole Document does not entitle you to be paroled into the United States; a separate discretionary decision on a request for parole will be made when you arrive at a port-of-entry upon your return.

WARNING: DHS may revoke or terminate your Advance Parole Document at any time, including while you are outside the United States, in which event you may be unable to return to the United States unless you have a valid visa or other document that allows you to travel to the United States and seek admission.

NOTE: Generally, if you are in the United States and have applied for adjustment of status to that of a lawful permanent resident, we will consider that application abandoned if you leave the United States without first obtaining an Advance Parole Document. Generally, we will not consider your application for adjustment of status as abandoned, even if you do not obtain an Advance Parole Document before traveling abroad while your application is pending, if you are currently in one of the following nonimmigrant classifications, and remain eligible for and would be admissible in one of the following categories upon applying for admission at a port of entry:

- a. An H-1 temporary worker, or H-4 spouse or child of an H-1;

- b. An L-1 intracompany transferee, or L-2 spouse or child of an L-1; or
- c. A K-3 spouse, or K-4 child of a U.S. citizen.

NOTE: Upon returning to the United States, most aliens must present a valid H, L, or K nonimmigrant visa and must continue to be otherwise admissible. Generally, if you do not have a valid or unexpired H, L, or K nonimmigrant visa, then you generally need to obtain an H, L, or K nonimmigrant visa at a U.S. Department of State (DOS) visa issuing post. You will need a valid nonimmigrant visa, Advance Parole Document, or other travel document to present for reentry.

5. Advance Parole Document for Aliens Outside the United States

DHS may grant, in its discretion, an Advance Parole Document to aliens outside the United States as an extraordinary measure used sparingly to allow an otherwise inadmissible alien to travel to the United States and to seek parole into the United States temporarily for urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit. Significant public benefit parole is typically limited to law enforcement or homeland security-related reasons. An Advance Parole Document cannot be used to circumvent normal visa issuance procedures and is not a means to bypass delays in receiving a visa.

Who May File Form I-131?

Each applicant must file a separate Form I-131.

NOTE: Do not file Form I-131 if you are seeking release from immigration custody and you want to remain in the United States as a parolee. You should contact U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) about your request.

1. Reentry Permit

- a. If you are in the United States as a lawful permanent resident or conditional permanent resident, you may apply for a Reentry Permit. You must be physically present in the United States when you file the Reentry Permit application and complete the biometrics services requirement. After filing your application for a Reentry Permit, USCIS will inform you in writing when to go to your local Application Support Center (ASC) for your biometrics services appointment. (See Item Number 3. Biometrics Services Requirement in the General Requirements section of these Instructions.)

NOTE: We can send your reentry permit to a U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate abroad for you to pick up, if you make such a request when you file your application.

With the exception of having to obtain a returning resident visa abroad, a reentry permit does not exempt you from complying with any U.S. immigration laws. If you possess of a reentry permit, we will not consider you have abandoned your status as a lawful permanent resident or conditional permanent resident based solely on the duration of your absences from the United States while the permit is valid.

An absence from the United States for 1 year or more will generally break the continuity of your required continuous residence for the purpose of naturalization. If you intend to remain outside the United States for 1 year or more, you may be eligible to file Form N-470, Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization Purposes. For more information, call the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283. The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish. For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: 1-800-767-1833.

b. Validity of Reentry Permit

- (1) Generally, a Reentry Permit issued to a lawful permanent resident is valid for 2 years from the date of issuance. See 8 CFR section 223.3(a)(1). However, if you have been outside the United States for more than 4 of the last 5 years since becoming a lawful permanent resident, we will limit the permit to 1 year. As an exception, we may issue a permit with a validity of 2 years to:

- (a) A lawful permanent resident whose travel is on the order of the U.S. Government, other than an exclusion, deportation, removal, or rescission order;
- (b) A lawful permanent resident employed by a public international organization of which the United States is a member by treaty or statute; or
- (c) A lawful permanent resident who is a professional athlete and regularly competes in the United States and worldwide.

(2) A Reentry Permit issued to a conditional permanent resident is valid for 2 years from the date of issuance, or to the date the conditional permanent resident must apply for removal of the conditions on his or her status, whichever date comes first.

(3) A Reentry Permit may not be extended.

c. A Reentry Permit may not be issued to you if:

- (1) You have already been issued such a document, and it is still valid, unless the prior document has been returned to USCIS or you can demonstrate that it was lost; or
- (2) A notice was published in the Federal Register that precludes the issuance of such a document for travel to the area where you intend to go.

Notice to lawful permanent residents or conditional permanent residents concerning possible abandonment of status: If you do not obtain a Reentry Permit, lengthy or frequent absences from the United States could be factors supporting a conclusion that you have abandoned your lawful permanent resident or conditional permanent residence status. If DHS determines, upon your return to the United States, that you have abandoned your lawful permanent resident or conditional permanent resident status, you may challenge that determination if you are placed in removal proceedings.

2. Refugee Travel Document

- a. If you are in the United States** in valid refugee or asylee status, or if you are a lawful permanent resident as a direct result of your refugee or asylee status in the United States, you may apply for a Refugee Travel Document. You **must apply BEFORE** you leave the United States. **If we require biometrics from you, you must appear for any required biometrics services appointment BEFORE you leave the United States. If you fail to appear to have the biometrics collected before you leave the United States, we will deny your application.**

After filing your application, **USCIS** will inform you in writing when to go to your local USCIS ASC for your biometrics services appointment. Unless you have other appropriate documentation, such as a Permanent Resident Card (**commonly known as a Green Card**) and passport, you must have a Refugee Travel Document to return to the United States after temporary travel abroad. **We can send a Refugee Travel Document to a U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate abroad for you to pick up, if you request it when you file your application.**

b. If you are outside of the United States and:

- (1) Have valid refugee or asylee status; or
- (2) You are a lawful permanent resident as a direct result of your refugee or asylee status in the United States, **we may allow you, in our discretion,** to file Form I-131 and apply for a Refugee Travel Document.

You must file your application within 1 year of your last departure from the United States and should include an explanation of why you failed to apply for a Refugee Travel Document before you departed from the United States.

Travel Warning Regarding Voluntary Re-Availment

Warning to asylees who travel to the country of claimed persecution: If you applied for asylum on or after April 1, 1997, **we may terminate your asylum status if** the U.S. Government determines that you have voluntarily availed yourself of the protection of your country of nationality or, if stateless, country of last habitual residence. See section 208(c)(2)(D) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C 1158(c)(2)(D).

c. Validity of Refugee Travel Document

- (1) A Refugee Travel Document is valid for 1 year.
- (2) A Refugee Travel Document **cannot** be extended.

d. A Refugee Travel Document may not be issued to you if:

- (1) You have already been issued such a document and it is still valid, unless the prior document has been returned to USCIS or you can demonstrate that it was lost; or
- (2) A notice was published in the Federal Register that precludes the issuance of such a document for travel to the area where you intend to go.

NOTE: You should apply for a Refugee Travel Document before you leave the United States. However, **we can send** a Refugee Travel **Document** to a U.S. Embassy **or** U.S. Consulate abroad for you to pick up, if you make such a request when you file your application, **and you attend any required biometrics appointment prior to departing from** the United States. Departing from the United States before **we make a decision on your** application usually does not affect **the decision**. However, if **we require biometrics from you** and **you depart** the United States before biometrics are collected, **we may deny your application**.

Notice to lawful permanent residents who obtain permanent residence as a result of their refugee or asylee status: If you do not obtain a Reentry Permit (see **Item 1. Reentry Permit** above) and remain outside the United States, lengthy or frequent absences from the United States could be factors supporting a conclusion that you have abandoned your lawful permanent resident status. With the exception of having to obtain a returning resident visa abroad, a Reentry Permit does not exempt you from **complying** with any **U.S.** immigration laws. If **you possess a valid, unexpired** Reentry Permit, we will not consider you to have abandoned your status as a lawful permanent resident or conditional permanent resident based solely on the duration of your absences from the United States while the permit is valid.

An absence from the United States for 1 year or more will generally break the continuity of your required continuous residence for purpose of naturalization. If you intend to remain outside the United States for 1 year or more, you may be eligible to file Form N-470, Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization Purposes. For **more** information, contact your local USCIS office.

If DHS determines, upon your return to the United States, that you have abandoned your lawful permanent resident status, you may **challenge** that determination if you are placed in removal proceedings, and seek a determination whether you may retain asylum status even if you cannot retain lawful permanent resident status.

3. Travel Authorization/Advance Parole Document Related to Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

If you have a pending initial TPS application (Form I-821) or you are a current TPS beneficiary, please select **Item Number 1.d.** in **Part 2.** of the form for TPS travel authorization.

Important: If you have TPS and return to the United States from travel with a TPS-travel authorized Advance Parole Document issued to you under 8 C.F.R. section 244.15, DHS will determine at inspection whether you may re-enter. If permitted to re-enter, by law, you resume the same immigration status that you held at the time of departure, including all other incidents of your status at the time of your departure. For example, if you were under removal proceedings, which includes having had an unexecuted final order of removal before you left the United States on your TPS-travel authorized document, then you return subject to those same proceedings and, if applicable, any such removal order. Similarly, if you were present without inspection and admission or inspection and parole prior to your departure, upon return you will still be an alien with TPS present without inspection and admission or inspection and parole. See Section 304(c)(1) of the Miscellaneous and Technical Immigration and Naturalization Amendments of 1991 (MTINA), Pub. L. 102-232, 105 Stat. 1733, 1749 (December 12, 1991), as amended.

If your TPS has not been withdrawn or otherwise terminated while you were traveling, you may be permitted to resume TPS unless you are subject to certain criminal or security grounds that are mandatory grounds of ineligibility for TPS and also grounds for removal. In such a case, you may be placed in removal proceedings. See Note to 8 U.S.C. section 1254a (INA, section 244) (citing to section 304(c) of the *Miscellaneous and Technical Immigration Amendments Act of 1991 (MTINA)*, Pub. L. 102-232, as amended, concerning TPS beneficiaries authorized to travel abroad).

If you have a pending initial or re-registration application for TPS and you leave the United States on an Advance Parole Document, you may miss important notices from USCIS regarding your application, including requests for additional evidence. If you do not respond timely to these notices, USCIS may deem your application abandoned and deny the application. Your TPS may also be withdrawn if you are an existing beneficiary. It is very important that you make appropriate arrangements to ensure that you do not miss any such important notices.

4. Advance Parole Document for Aliens Who Are Currently in the United States

If any of the items listed under Item a. below apply to you, select Item Number 1.e. in Part 2. of the form.

a. If you are in the United States and seek an Advance Parole Document, you may apply if:

- (1) You have a pending application to adjust status, (Form I-485) and you seek to travel abroad temporarily for **urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit**, which may include a personal or family emergency or bona fide business reasons.
- (2) You **have been** granted TPS, or have been granted T or U nonimmigrant **status**.
- (3) You have been granted parole pursuant to INA section 212(d)(5), **AND** you seek to travel abroad temporarily for urgent humanitarian reasons or in furtherance of a significant public benefit. Humanitarian reasons include travel to obtain medical treatment, attend funeral services for a family member, or visit an ailing relative.
- (4) USCIS or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has deferred action in your case as a childhood arrival based on the guidelines described in the Secretary of Homeland Security's memorandum issued on June 15, 2012 ("Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" (DACA)). USCIS may, in its discretion, grant advance parole if you are traveling outside the United States for educational purposes, employment purposes, or humanitarian purposes.
 - (a) Educational purposes include, but are not limited to, semester abroad programs or academic research;
 - (b) Employment purposes include, but are not limited to, overseas assignments, interviews, conferences, training, or meetings with clients; and
 - (c) Humanitarian purposes include, but are not limited to, travel to obtain medical treatment, attend funeral services for a family member, or visit an ailing relative.

NOTE: Travel for vacation is not a valid purpose. You must **NOT** file Form I-131 with your deferred action request or your package will be rejected and returned to you.

- (5) USCIS has granted you IMMACT 90 or LIFE Act Family Unity Program benefits, **AND** you seek to travel abroad temporarily for urgent humanitarian reasons or in furtherance of a significant public benefit, which may include a personal or family emergency or bona fide business reasons.
- (6) You have a pending application for temporary resident status pursuant to INA section 245A, and you seek to travel abroad temporarily for urgent humanitarian reasons or in furtherance of a significant public benefit, which may include a personal or family emergency or bona fide business reasons.
- (7) You have been granted V nonimmigrant status in the United States, **AND** you seek to travel abroad temporarily for urgent humanitarian reasons or in furtherance of a significant public benefit, which may include a personal or family emergency or bona fide business reasons.

If you have a Form I-485 or other application pending and you leave the United States after obtaining an Advance Parole Document, you may miss important notices from USCIS regarding your application, including requests for additional evidence. If you do not respond timely to these notices, USCIS may deem your application abandoned and, in that event, you will not receive the benefit you seek. It is very important that you make arrangements to ensure that you do not miss any such important notices.

b. Travel Warning

Before you apply for an Advance Parole Document, read the following travel warning carefully.

- (1) Leaving the United States, even **after obtaining** an Advance Parole Document, may **affect** your ability to return to the United States.
- (2) If you use an Advance Parole Document **to return** to a **port of entry** in the United States, you will, upon your return, be an “applicant for admission.”
- (3) As an applicant for admission, you will be subject to inspection at a **port of entry**, and **you must establish your admissibility** under the applicable **provisions** of INA section 212(a) or 235 or any other provision of U.S. law **regarding your admissibility** to the United States. If DHS determines that you are inadmissible, you may be subject to expedited removal proceedings or to removal proceedings before an immigration judge, as authorized by law and regulations.
- (4) As noted above, issuance of an Advance Parole Document does **NOT** entitle you to parole and does not guarantee that DHS will parole you into the United States upon your return.
- (5) As noted above, DHS will make a separate discretionary decision whether to parole you each time you use an Advance Parole Document to return to the United States.
- (6) If, upon your return, you are paroled into the United States, you will remain an applicant for admission.
- (7) As noted above, DHS may revoke or terminate your Advance Parole Document at any time, including while you are outside the United States. Even if you have already been paroled, upon your return to the United States, DHS may also revoke or terminate your parole in accordance with 8 CFR 212.5.

If you are outside the United States, **revoking** or **terminating** of your Advance Parole Document may preclude you from returning to the United States unless you have a valid visa or other document that **allows** you to travel to the United States and seek admission.

- (8) If you are in the United States when DHS revokes or terminates your parole, you will be an unparoled applicant for admission, and may be subject to removal as an applicant for admission who is inadmissible under INA section 212, rather than as an admitted alien who is deportable under INA section 237. In addition to the above, if you received deferred action under DACA, you should also be aware of the following:
 - (a) Even after USCIS or ICE has deferred action in your case under DACA, you should not travel outside the United States unless USCIS has approved your application for an Advance Parole Document. Deferred action will terminate automatically if you travel outside the United States without obtaining an Advance Parole Document from USCIS.
 - (b) If you obtain an Advance Parole Document in connection with a decision to defer removal in your case under DACA and if, upon your return, you are paroled into the United States, your case will generally continue to be deferred. The deferral will continue until the date specified by USCIS or ICE in the deferral notice given to you or until the decision to defer removal action in your case has been terminated, whichever is earlier.
 - (c) If you have been ordered excluded, deported, or removed, departing from the United States without having had your exclusion, deportation, or removal proceedings reopened and administratively closed or terminated will result in your being considered excluded, deported, or removed, even if USCIS or ICE has deferred action in your case under DACA and you have been granted advance parole.

c. If you are in the United States and seek an Advance Parole Document, we may not be issued it to you if:

- (1) You hold a nonimmigrant status, such as J-1, that is subject to the 2-year foreign residence requirement as a result of that status. Exception: If you are someone who was subject to this requirement but are now eligible to apply for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident, we may consider your application for an advance parole document; or
- (2) If you are subject to exclusion, deportation, or removal, proceedings (either pending or completed) and you are seeking an advance parole document in order to travel abroad and return to the United States, you cannot use this form, unless you have received deferred action under DACA. You may, however, request an advance parole document from ICE.

d. If you depart from the United States before we issue your Advance Parole Document, we will consider your application abandoned unless you already possess an Advance Parole Document that is valid for the entire time you are outside of the United States.

5. Advance Parole Document for Aliens Outside of the United States

If you or someone else is outside the United States and need to visit the United States temporarily for an urgent humanitarian reason or for significant public benefit:

- (a) You may apply for an Advance Parole Document if you cannot obtain the necessary visa and any required waiver of inadmissibility or consent to reapply for admission. Under these conditions, we will grant an Advance Parole Document on a case-by-case basis for a temporary period of time, according to any conditions that may be placed on parole.
- (b) An individual in the United States may file this application on your behalf. This individual must complete **Part 1.** of the form with information about himself or herself.
- (c) If you were paroled into the United States when you arrived with an Advanced Parole Document, and need to remain in the United States beyond the authorized parole period to accomplish the purpose for which parole was approved, you must file a new Form I-131 with all supporting documentation to request a new parole authorization and type or print REPAROLE in capital letters at the top of the new Form I-131.

General Instructions

If you are completing this form on a computer, the data you enter will be captured using 2D barcode technology. This capture will ensure that the data you provide is accurately entered into USCIS systems. As you complete each field, the 2D barcode field at the bottom of each page will shift. When USCIS receives your form, we will use the 2D barcode to extract the data from the form. Please do not damage the 2D barcode (puncture, staple, spill on, write on, etc.) as this could affect our ability to timely process your form.

USCIS provides forms free of charge through the USCIS website. To view, print, or fill out our forms, you should use the latest version of Adobe Reader, which can be downloaded for free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>. If you do not have internet access, you may call the USCIS Contact Center at 1-800-375-5283 and ask that we mail a form to you. The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish. For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: 1-800-767-1833.

Filing Fee. You must include the appropriate filing fee with your application. (See the **What is the Filing Fee** section of these Instructions.).

Evidence. At the time of filing, you must submit all evidence and supporting documents listed in the **What Evidence Must You Submit** section of these Instructions.

Biometrics Services Appointment. USCIS may require that you appear for an interview or provide biometrics (fingerprints, photograph, and/or signature) at any time to verify your identity, obtain additional information, and conduct background and security checks, including a check of criminal history records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), before making a decision on your application. After USCIS receives your application and ensures it is complete, we will inform you if you need to attend a biometric services appointment. If an appointment is necessary, the notice will provide you the location of your local or designated USCIS ASC and the date and time of your appointment or, if you submitted your I-131 from outside the United States and are currently still outside the United States, instruct you to contact a U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate to set up an appointment.

If you are required to provide biometrics, at your appointment you must sign an oath reaffirming that:

1. You provided or authorized all information in the application;
2. You reviewed and understood all of the information contained in, and submitted with, your application; and
3. All of this information was complete, true, and correct at the time of filing.

If you fail to attend your biometrics services appointment, USCIS may deny your application.

Copies. You should submit legible photocopies of documents requested, unless the Instructions specifically state that you must submit an original document. USCIS may request an original document at the time of filing or at any time during processing of an application or petition. If USCIS requests an original document from you, it will be returned to you after USCIS determines it no longer needs your original.

Translations. If you submit a document with information in a foreign language, you must also submit a full English translation. The translator must sign a certification that the English language translation is complete and accurate, and that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English. The certification must also include the translator's signature, printed name, the signature date, and the translator's contact information.

How To Fill Out Form I-131

1. Type or print legibly in black ink.
2. If you need extra space to complete any item within this application, use the space provided in **Part 11. Additional Information** or attach a separate sheet of paper. Type or print your name and Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (if any), at the top of each sheet; indicate the **Page Number**, **Part Number**, and **Item Number** to which your answer refers; and sign and date each sheet.
3. Answer all questions fully and accurately. If a question does not apply to you (for example, if you have never been married and the question asks, "Provide the name of your spouse"), type or print "N/A" unless otherwise directed. If your answer to a question which requires a numeric response is zero or none (for example, "How many children do you have" or "How many times have you departed the United States"), type or print "None" unless otherwise directed.

General Requirements

1. Initial Evidence

All applications must include a **copy of an official photo identity document showing your photo, name, and date of birth.** (Examples: Your current Employment Authorization Document, if available; a valid government-issued driver's license; passport identity page; Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card; or any other official identity document.) The copy must **clearly** show the photo and identity information. **Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record is not acceptable as a photo identity document.**

You must file your application with all required evidence. Not submitting required evidence will delay the issuance of the document you are requesting. USCIS may request additional information or evidence or may request that you appear at a USCIS office for an interview or for fingerprinting. (See **Item 3. Biometric Services Requirement** below).

If you are applying for:

a. Reentry Permit

You **must** attach a copy of the front and back of your Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card. If you have not yet received your Permanent Resident Card, you **must** attach a copy of:

- (1) The biographic pages of your passport and a copy of the visa page showing your initial admission as a lawful permanent resident, or other evidence that you are a lawful permanent resident;
- (2) A copy of the Form I-797, Notice of Action, approval notice for your application to replace your Permanent Resident Card; or
- (3) Temporary evidence of lawful permanent resident status.

b. Refugee Travel Document

You **must** attach:

- (1) A copy of the document issued to you by USCIS showing your refugee or asylee status and the expiration date of such status; and
- (2) Any other information you believe supports your eligibility.

If you answered “No” to **Part 6, Item Number 5.** and are filing for a Refugee Travel Document from outside the United States, you must also establish that you meet the regulatory requirements for an overseas filing. See 8 CFR section 23.2(b)(2)(ii). The requirements are that you did not intend to abandon your refugee or asylum status at the time you left the United States and that you did not engage in any activities while outside the United States that are inconsistent with continued refugee or asylum status. Please attach a complete statement explaining how you meet these requirements. Your statement should include:

- (1) A detailed description of why you left the United States without filing for a Refugee Travel Document;
- (2) Whether you intended to abandon your refugee or asylum status at the time you left the United States
- (3) A description of where you have traveled since your departure and the purpose of that travel;
- (4) Your activities while outside the United States; and
- (5) Any other information you believe supports your eligibility for a Refugee Travel Document.

c. Advance Parole Document for **Aliens** Who Are Currently in the United States

If you are in the United States, you must attach a copy of any document issued to you by USCIS (for example, a Form I-797 approval notice) showing your **current** status, if any, in the United States; and **one of the following**:

- (1) An explanation or other evidence showing the circumstances that warrant **us** issuing an Advance Parole Document;
- (2) A copy of a USCIS receipt as evidence that you filed the adjustment application (if you are an applicant for adjustment of status); or
- (3) A copy of the U.S. consular appointment letter (if you are traveling to Canada to apply for an immigrant visa).
- (4) If USCIS has deferred action in your case under DACA, you must include a copy of the Form I-797, Notice of Action, showing that the decision on your Form I-821D was to defer action in your case. If ICE deferred action in your case under DACA, submit a copy of the approval order, notice or letter issued by ICE.

You must complete Part 4. of the form indicating how your intended travel fits within 1 of the 3 purposes below. You must also provide evidence of your reason for travel outside of the United States including the dates of travel and the expected duration outside the United States. If your advance parole application is approved, the validity dates of your Advance Parole Document will be for the duration of the documented need for travel. Below are examples of acceptable evidence:

Educational Purposes

- (a) A letter from a school employee acting in an official capacity describing the purpose of the travel and explaining why travel is required or beneficial; or
- (b) A document showing enrollment in an educational program requiring travel.

Employment Purposes

A letter from your employer or a conference host describing the need for the travel.

Humanitarian Purposes

- (a) A letter from your physician explaining the nature of your medical condition, the specific medical treatment to be sought outside of the United States, and a brief explanation why travel outside the U.S. is medically necessary; or
- (b) Documentation of a family member's serious illness or death.

d. Advance Parole Document for Aliens Outside the United States

- (1) If you are applying for an Advance Parole Document for an alien who is outside the United States (either for yourself or another alien or are requesting reparole when you are in the United States and were granted parole by DHS while outside the United States), you must attach:
- (a) A detailed description of the urgent humanitarian or significant public benefit reason for which an Advance Parole Document is requested, an explanation for the length of time for which parole is requested, and copies of evidence that support the basis for your request;
 - (b) Form I-134, Affidavit of Support, completed as directed in the Form I-134 Instructions;
 - (c) A statement explaining why a U.S. visa cannot be obtained, including when and where attempts were made to obtain a visa, or an explanation of why a visa was not sought to enter the United States;
 - (d) If applicable, a statement explaining why a waiver of inadmissibility cannot be obtained to allow issuance of a visa, including when and where attempts were made to obtain a waiver, and a copy of any DHS decision on your waiver request, or an explanation of why a waiver has not been sought;
 - (e) A copy of any decision on an immigrant or non-immigrant petition or application filed for an alien seeking to enter the United States, and evidence regarding any pending immigrant or non-immigrant petition or application;
 - (f) In addition to the identity document described in **Item 1. Initial Evidence** above, unless such document is a valid passport, you must attach:
 - (i) A copy of the biographical page of the beneficiary's passport or, if it is not available, an explanation why a passport is not available and another government-issued identity document that establishes the beneficiary's citizenship; and
 - (ii) Copies of the petitioner's and Form I-134 sponsor's official identity documents and evidence of their citizenship or U.S. immigration status (such as a copy of a U.S. passport, lawful permanent resident card, or birth certificate).

NOTE: If a civil document submitted in support of a request for an advance parole document has annotations on either the front or the back of the document, you must submit copies of both sides of the document.

NOTE: Additional information regarding types of evidence that may be relevant to specific parole requests is described under "**Humanitarian Parole**" at www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/humanitarian-parole.

2. Photographs

- a. **If you are outside the United States and filing for a Refugee Travel Document, or if you are in the United States and filing for an Advance Parole Document:**

You **must** submit **two** identical color photographs of yourself taken within 30 days of the filing of this application. The photos must have a white to off-white background, be printed on thin paper with a glossy finish, and be unmounted and unretouched.

NOTE: Because of the current USCIS scanning process, if you submit a digital photo, it must be produced from a high-resolution camera that has at least 3.5 mega pixels of resolution.

Passport-style photos must be 2" x 2." The photos must be in color with full face, frontal view on a white to off-white background. Head height should measure 1" to 1 3/8" from top of hair to bottom of chin, and eye height is between 1 1/8" to 1 3/8" from bottom of photo. Your head must be bare unless you are wearing headwear as required by a religious denomination of which you are a member. Using pencil or felt pen, lightly print your name and A-Number on the back of the photo.

- b. **If applying for an Advance Parole Document for an alien outside the United States:**

- (1) If you are applying for an Advance Parole Document on your own behalf, and you are outside the United States, submit photographs with your application.
- (2) If you are applying for an Advance Parole Document on behalf of another alien who is outside the United States, submit the required photographs of **that alien**.

3. Biometrics Services Requirement

- a. All applicants for a Refugee Travel Document or a Reentry Permit must **submit** biometrics at a USCIS Application Support Center (ASC) or, if applying for a Refugee Travel Document while outside of the United States, at **a U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate**. If you are between ages 14 **and** 79 and you are applying for a Refugee Travel Document or a Reentry Permit, you must **submit biometrics**. After you have filed this application, USCIS will notify you in writing of the time and location for your biometric services appointment. Failure to appear to **submit** biometrics may result in **us denying** your application.
- b. An **alien** outside the United States who is seeking an Advance Parole Document for **urgent** humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit, and who is between ages 14 **and** 79, must **submit biometrics**. Depending on **their** location, USCIS or the Department of State will advise the **alien of where to submit** biometrics.

4. Invalidation of Travel Document

Any travel document obtained by making a material false representation or concealment in this application will be invalid. A travel document will also be invalid if you are ordered removed or deported from the United States.

In addition, a Refugee Travel Document will be invalid if the United Nations Convention of July 28, 1951, **ceases** to apply or **does** not apply to you as provided in Articles 1C, D, E, or F of the Convention.

5. Expedite Request Instructions

To request expedited processing of an application for a Reentry Permit, a Refugee Travel Document, or an Advance Parole Document for an **alien** outside the United States, type or print the word EXPEDITE in the top right corner of the application in black ink. USCIS recommends that you provide e-mail addresses and a fax number with any expedite request for a Reentry Permit, Refugee Travel Document, or Advance Parole Document.

Include a written explanation of the reason for the request to expedite with any supporting evidence available. The burden is on the applicant to demonstrate that one or more of the expedite criteria have been met. The criteria are as follows:

- a. Severe financial loss to company or individual, as long as the need for urgent action is not the result of the petitioner's or applicant's failure to file the benefit request or the request to expedite in a reasonable time frame; or to respond to any requests for additional evidence in a reasonably timely manner;
- b. Urgent humanitarian reasons;
- c. Compelling U.S. Government interests (such as urgent cases for the Department of Defense or DHS, or other public safety or national security interests); or
- d. Clear USCIS error.

USCIS will consider all expedite requests on a case-by-case basis. Not every circumstance that fits under one of these categories will result in expedited treatment.

What Is the Filing Fee?

Reentry Permit: The filing fee for a Reentry Permit is **\$575**. A biometrics services fee of **\$85** is required for applicants ages 14 through 79.

Refugee Travel Document: The filing fee for a Refugee Travel Document for an applicant **age 16 or older** is **\$135**. The fee for a **child younger than 16** is **\$105**. A biometrics services fee of **\$85** is required for applicants ages 14 through 79 (if the applicant has a pending Form I-485 see the **NOTE** below).

Advance Parole Document for Aliens Who Are Currently in the United States (including individuals whose cases were deferred pursuant to DACA): The filing fee for an Advance Parole Document for an **alien** who is currently in the United States is **\$575**. **There is no** biometrics services fee.

Advance Parole Document for Aliens Outside the United States: The filing fee for an Advance Parole Document for an **alien** who is outside the United States is **\$575**. **There is no** biometrics services fee. **We may waive the filing fee based** upon a demonstrated inability to pay. Applicants should file Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver, when filing Form I-131 to ensure such requests are supported **according to** 8 CFR 103.7(c).

NOTE: If you filed Form I-485 on or after July 30, 2007, and you paid the Form I-485 application fee required, then no fee is required to file a request for an Advance Parole Document or Refugee Travel Document on Form I-131 if your Form I-485 is still pending, **and:**

1. You now hold U.S. refugee or asylee status, and are applying for a Refugee Travel Document (see **Part 2. Application Type, Item Number 1.e.** of Form I-131); or
2. You are applying for an Advance Parole Document to allow you to return to the United States after temporary foreign travel (see **Part 2. Application Type, Item Number 1.d.** of Form I-131).

Under these circumstances, you may file Form I-131 together with your Form I-485, or you may submit Form I-131 at a later date. If you file Form I-131 separately, you must also submit a copy of your Form I-797, Notice of Action, receipt as evidence that you filed and paid the fee for Form I-485 required on or after July 30, 2007.

Incorrect Card: No fee is required if you are filing to correct a USCIS error on your travel document. If USCIS did not cause the error, you must pay the application fees.

NOTE: The filing fee and biometric services fee are not refundable, regardless of any action USCIS takes on this application. **DO NOT MAIL CASH.** You must submit all fees in the exact amounts.

Use the following guidelines when you prepare your checks or money orders for the Form I-131 filing fee and biometric services fee:

1. The check or money order must be drawn on a bank or other financial institution located in the United States and must be payable in U.S. currency; **and**
2. Make the checks or money orders payable to **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

NOTE: Spell out U.S. Department of Homeland Security; do not use the initials “USDHS” or “DHS.”

3. If you live outside the United States, contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate for instructions on the method of payment .

Notice to Those **Paying by Check.** If you send **USCIS** a check, **we** will convert it into an electronic funds transfer (EFT). This means we will copy your check and use the account information on it to electronically debit your account for the amount of the check. The debit from your account will usually take 24 hours and your bank will show it on your regular account statement.

You will not receive your original check back. We will destroy your original check, but will keep a copy of it. If USCIS cannot process the EFT for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy in place of your original check. If your check is returned as unpayable, **we** will re-submit the payment to the financial institution one time. If the check is returned as unpayable a second time, we will reject your application and charge you a returned check fee.

How To Check If the Fees Are Correct

Form I-131’s filing fee and biometric services fees are current as of the edition date in the lower left corner of this page. However, because USCIS fees change periodically, you can verify that the fees are correct by following one of the steps below.

1. Visit the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov, select “FORMS,” and check the appropriate fee; or
2. Call the USCIS **Contact** Center at **1-800-375-5283** and ask for fee information. **The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish.** For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: **1-800-767-1833**.

Fee Waiver

You may be eligible for a fee waiver under 8 CFR 103.7(c). If you believe you are eligible for a fee waiver, complete Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver (or a written request), and submit it and any required evidence of your inability to pay the filing fee with this application. You can review the fee waiver guidance at www.uscis.gov/feewaiver.

Where to File?

Please see our website at www.uscis.gov/I-131 or call our USCIS **Contact** Center at **1-800-375-5283** for the most current information about where to file this benefit request. **The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish.** For TTY (hearing impaired) call: **1-800-767-1833**.

Address Changes

An applicant who is not a U.S. Citizen must **notify** USCIS of **their** new address **within 10 days of moving from his or her previous residence**. For information on filing a change of address go to the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov/addresschange or **reach out to** the USCIS **Contact** Center at www.uscis.gov/contactcenter for help. **The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish.** For TTY (hearing impaired) call: **1-800-767-1833**.

NOTE: Do not submit a change of address **request** to the USCIS Lockbox facilities because the Lockbox **does** not process change of address requests.

Processing Information

Any Form I-131 that is not signed or accompanied by the correct fees will be rejected with a notice that Form I-131 is deficient. You may correct the deficiency and resubmit Form I-131. An application or petition is not considered properly filed until accepted by USCIS.

Initial Processing

Once a Form I-131 has been accepted, it will be checked for completeness, including submission of the required initial evidence. If you do not completely fill out the form, or **you** file it without required initial evidence, you will not establish a basis for eligibility, and we may deny your Form I-131.

Requests for More Information, Including Biometrics, or Interview

We may request more information or evidence, or we may request that you appear at a USCIS office, U.S. Embassy, or U.S. Consulate for an interview. We may also request that you submit the originals of any copy. We will return these originals when they are no longer required.

At the time of any interview or other appearance at a USCIS office, U.S. Embassy, or U.S. Consulate, USCIS may require you to provide biometrics information (for example, **photographs or fingerprints**) to verify your identity and update your background information.

Decision

The decision on Form I-131 involves a determination of whether you have established eligibility for the requested document. **We will notify you** of the decision in writing.

What If You Claim Nonresident Alien Status on Your Federal Income Tax Return?

If you are an alien who has been admitted as an immigrant or adjusted status to that of an immigrant, and are considering the filing of a nonresident alien tax return or the non-filing of a tax return on the ground that you are a nonresident alien, you should carefully review the consequences of such actions under the INA.

If you file a nonresident alien tax return or do not file a tax return, you may be regarded as having abandoned residence in the United States and as having lost your lawful permanent resident status under the INA. As a consequence, you may be ineligible for a visa or other document for which lawful permanent resident aliens are eligible.

You may also be inadmissible to the United States if you seek admission as a returning resident, and you may become ineligible for adjustment of status as a lawful permanent resident or naturalization on the basis of your original entry.

USCIS Forms and Information

To ensure you are using the latest version of this **application**, visit the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov where you can obtain the latest USCIS forms and immigration-related information. If you do not have internet access, you may call the USCIS Contact Center at **1-800-375-5283** and **ask that we mail a form to you**. The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish. For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: **1-800-767-1833**.

Please visit us at www.uscis.gov/contactcenter to get basic information about immigration services and ask questions about a pending case. Through our digital self-help tools and live assistance, the USCIS Contact Center provides a pathway for you to get consistent, accurate information and answers to immigration case questions.

Penalties

If you knowingly and willfully falsify or conceal a material fact or submit a false document with **your Form I-131**, we will deny your Form I-131 and may deny any other immigration benefit. In addition, you will face severe penalties provided by law and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

DHS Privacy Notice

AUTHORITIES: The information requested on this application, and the associated evidence, is collected under the Immigration and Nationality Act sections 103, 208(c)(1)(C), 211, 212(d)(5)(A), 215, **244(1)(3)**, and 8 CFR sections 211.1(a)(3-4), 212.5, **223.1-223.3**, and **244.15**.

PURPOSE: The primary purpose for providing the requested information on this application is to apply for a Reentry Permit, Refugee Travel Document, or Advance Parole Document, to include urgent humanitarian reasons or in furtherance of a significant public benefit. DHS uses the information you provide to grant or deny the immigration benefit you are seeking.

DISCLOSURE: The information you provide is voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information, including your Social Security number (if applicable), and any requested evidence, may delay a final decision or result in denial of your application.

ROUTINE USES: DHS may share the information you provide on this application and any additional requested evidence with other Federal, state, local, and foreign government agencies and authorized organizations. DHS follows approved routine uses described in the associated published system of records notices [DHS/USCIS-001 - Alien File, Index, and National File Tracking System and DHS/USCIS-007 - Benefits Information System] and the published privacy impact assessments [DHS/USCIS/PIA-003(b) Integrated Digitization Document Management Program, DHS/USCIS/PIA-016a Computer Linked Application Information Management System and Associated Systems, and DHS/USCIS/PIA-051 Case and Activity Management for International Operations] which you can find at www.dhs.gov/privacy. DHS may also share this information, as appropriate, for law enforcement purposes or in the interest of national security.

Paperwork Reduction Act

An agency may not conduct or sponsor an information collection, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 1.90 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering the required documentation and information, completing the application, preparing statements, attaching necessary documentation, and submitting the application. The collection of biometrics is estimated to require 1.17 hours. The collection of passport-style photographs is estimated at 0.50 hours. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Regulatory Coordination Division, Office of Policy and Strategy, 20 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20529-2140; OMB No. 1615-0013. **Do not mail your completed Form I-131 to this address.**