



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

MENU

[Home](#) > [Humanitarian](#) > Statelessness

Statelessness

On Aug. 1, 2023, USCIS published policy manual guidance that applies to stateless noncitizens in the United States who may be interested in filing, or who have already filed, an immigration application, petition, or request with USCIS.

A stateless person is generally not considered a national by any state under the operation of its laws.

If you would like USCIS to consider your potential statelessness when we evaluate your immigration application, petition, or request, please see the instructions below.

If the immigration application, petition, or request you have filed or are filing with USCIS is not listed on this page, and you believe you may be stateless, please contact the [USCIS Contact Center](#).

If you believe you are stateless, and you are seeking:	Then you may file:
Deferred action Deferred action is an exercise of prosecutorial discretion, made on a case-by-case basis by USCIS, not to pursue the removal of a noncitizen from the United States. Deferred action is not a lawful immigration status, and it does not excuse any past periods of unlawful presence.	To request deferred action, you must submit: • A signed written request stating the basis for your request; and • Form G-325A, Biographic Information. Provide the name of the country where you were born. This is not necessarily the country you were born in. If you believe that you do not have a country, type or print “stateless.” You may also submit: • Proof of identity, including a birth certificate, identification card, driver’s license, no medical records, etc. If you are currently married, submit the marriage certificate; • Documents or other evidence that may help determine whether you are stateless, such as a passport, driver’s license, or other identification, such as a writ of habeas corpus, identifies your country of origin and current residence and explains the circumstances of your potential statelessness; • Evidence of any additional factors supporting your request for deferred action; and • If applicable, any document you used to establish your status in the United States. https://www.uscis.gov/node/60830https://www.uscis.gov/node/60830 Effective Nov.13, 2023, submit these items to: USCIS Western Forms Center Attn: Deferred Action 10 Application Way Montclair, CA 91763-1350

If you believe you are stateless, and you are seeking:	Then you may file:
Employment authorization after a grant of deferred action If we approve your request for deferred action, you may file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, to request employment authorization. In general, we only provide employment authorization to noncitizens granted deferred action at our discretion, and only if an applicant “establishes economic necessity for employment.”	• File Form I-765 to request employment authorization. • In Part 2, Question 27, mark (c)(14) as “Yes” and • File at the appropriate location listed on the Addresses for Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization webpage, with the applicable completed Form I-765WS.

If you believe you are stateless, and you are seeking:	Then you may file:
Parole in place We may grant parole in place on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit under section 212(d)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. You may be eligible for parole in place in 1-year increments. We can only grant parole in place if you are present in the United States without admission and are an applicant for admission. If you were admitted to the United States lawfully but are present in the United States beyond the period of stay authorized, you are not eligible for parole in place because you are not an applicant for admission. However, you may qualify for deferred action. See the Deferred Action section above for more information.	• File Form I-131, Application for Travel application and supporting document office that has jurisdiction over where • Handwrite “PIP” in Part 2 instead of cl Provide the name of the country where you box 2.f., Country of Citizenship. This is not r where you were born. If you do not have cit type or print “stateless.” • Include a letter stating the basis for yc You may also submit: Documents or other evidence that may be i whether you are stateless, if you would like potential statelessness when we adjudicate application, such as a written statement th of origin and country of last habitual reside circumstances related to your potential sta • Evidence of any additional factors sup parole in place; and • Any available primary or secondary pr nationality, including, but not limited • Birth certificate; • Passport or identification card; • Notarized affidavits (See 8 CFR 103.2); • School or medical records; and • 2 identical, color, passport-style photc If you are a member of the military or enlist instructions at the Discretionary Options for Enlistees and Their Families webpage.

If you believe you are stateless, and you are seeking:	Then you may file:
Asylum USCIS may grant asylum to noncitizens who have been persecuted or fear they will be persecuted on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion and are otherwise eligible to apply for and receive a grant of asylum. Asylum is a form of protection that may be available to noncitizens who meet the definition of a “refugee” and either are already in the United States or are seeking admission at a port of entry. For more information on asylum status, please visit the USCIS Asylum webpage https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-asylum	To request asylum, you must file Form I-589 and for Withholding of Removal, either on paper or online. Applicants who are currently in proceeding with the Department of Justice Executive Office for Immigration Review may request asylum with USCIS. Certain applicants may request asylum online and must submit a paper application with the Where to File instructions before you file for asylum. • If you do not currently have citizenship, print “stateless” in the box for Question 15, Nationality at Birth on Form I-589. If you did not have a country at birth, type or print “stateless” in the box for Question 15, Nationality at Birth on Form I-589. • Provide information about your statelessness on Form I-589 as appropriate and relevant. This includes identifying documents or other evidence that establish your statelessness that may be helpful to support your claim (e.g., a limited to) a written statement that identifies your origin and country of last habitual residence and the circumstances related to your potential statelessness.
Employment authorization after filing a complete asylum application Noncitizens with a pending asylum application may apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) 150 days after filing their asylum application. Noncitizens who apply for an EAD may be eligible to receive an EAD 180 days after filing their asylum application.	• Use Form I-765 to request employment authorization. Visit the Asylum webpage for more information about the effect of applicant-caused delay on adjudication; • In Part 2, Question 27, mark (c)(8) as your basis for requesting employment authorization; • File at the appropriate location listed on the Addresses for Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization along with a completed filing fee for your initial application for employment authorization.

If you believe you are stateless, and you are seeking:	Then you may file:
U or T Nonimmigrant Status U nonimmigrant status is an immigration benefit available for victims of certain qualifying criminal activity who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse, have been, are being, or are likely to be helpful to law enforcement or other certifying officials in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity, and meet other requirements. U nonimmigrants can remain and work in the United States for up to 4 years, with extensions available in limited circumstances. They can also apply for certain family members to obtain derivative U nonimmigrant status and may be able to adjust status to lawful permanent residence (obtain a Green Card) after 3 years of continuous physical presence in the United States if they meet other requirements. To learn more about U nonimmigrant visas, visit the Victims of Criminal Activity: U Nonimmigrant Status webpage. For information on updates to the U nonimmigration status program, visit the U Nonimmigrant Status Program Updates page. T nonimmigrant status is an immigration benefit available for victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons who comply with any reasonable request for assistance from law enforcement in the detection, investigation, or prosecution of human trafficking (or qualify for an exemption or exception), and meet other requirements.	• If you would like USCIS to consider you when we adjudicate your petition for U nonimmigrant status, you may submit other evidence that may be related to your statelessness. The USCIS Policy Manual may be helpful to submit, including (b)(6) statement that identifies your country of last habitual residence and explains the reasons for your potential statelessness. • If you are filing a principal or derivative U nonimmigrant status or a principal or derivative T nonimmigrant status and you do not have a country, type or print “stateless” in the top left corner of Form I-914, Form I-914A, Form I-918, or Form I-918A.

If you believe you are stateless, and you are seeking:	Then you may file:
Temporary Protected Status (TPS) The secretary of homeland security may designate a foreign country for TPS due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country’s nationals from returning in safety or, in certain circumstances, when the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately. A country may be designated for TPS due to an ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, epidemic, or other extraordinary and temporary conditions. We may grant TPS to noncitizens who are already in the United States and are eligible nationals of a designated country (or part of a country), or to noncitizens having no nationality who last habitually resided in the designated foreign country. For information on countries currently designated for TPS, please visit the USCIS Temporary Protected Status webpage.	Apply for TPS using Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status. If you do not have citizenship in any “stateless” in response to Question 16.a., a other evidence that may be related to your The USCIS Policy Manual identifies documents to submit, including (but not limited to) a written statement that identifies your country of origin and country of last habitual residence and explains the circumstances related to your statelessness.
Employment authorization with TPS Applicants for TPS may apply for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) at the same time they apply for TPS, or they may choose to apply for an EAD separately later by filing Form I-765. TPS applicants may receive employment authorization before we make a final decision on their TPS application, if they demonstrate that they are prima facie eligible for TPS.	• Use Form I-765 to request an employment authorization document; • In Part 2, Question 27, please type or print “I am requesting my first EAD or am re-registering for my (c)(19) if you have a pending TPS application previously issued you a (c)(19) EAD as previously issued” and • File at the appropriate location listed on the Addresses for Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization webpage, along with the completed Form I-765WS.

Relevant Links



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