



I Am a Refugee or Asylee

How Do I... Help My Relative Get Refugee or Asylee Status in the United States?



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

M-581 (August 2008)

D1 Customer Guide

If you are currently in refugee or asylee status, you may be able to help your relative obtain asylee or refugee status. You can start the process by filing a **Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition**. An I-730 is available on our website at www.uscis.gov.

Who are the relatives for whom I may file?

If you were admitted to the United States as a refugee or were granted asylum less than 2 years ago, you may file an I-730 for the following relatives:

- Husband or wife;
- Unmarried children who were under age 21 at the time you were admitted as a refugee or granted asylum in the United States.

An I-730 petition must be filed within 2 years of being admitted as a refugee or being granted asylum. If it has been longer than 2 years since you were admitted as a refugee or were granted asylum, you may want to get legal advice to determine if there are any other immigration benefits available to your relative.

What happens after I file for my relative?

After you file the I-730 petition, we will mail you a receipt so you know we received it for processing. If your petition is incomplete, we may have to reject it, or ask you for more evidence or information, which will delay processing. Please send all required information the first time to avoid delay. If your relative is in the United States, we may require him or her to appear for an interview with an immigration officer.

We will notify you when we make a decision regarding your case. If we approve your petition, and your relative is in the United States, we will send you an approval notice, notifying you that your relative has been granted derivative refugee or asylee status and what steps to take next.

If we approve your petition and your relative is outside the United States, we will send you an approval notice and forward your

petition to the U.S. Embassy or consulate nearest your relative. The U.S. Embassy or consulate will notify your relative when and where to appear, inviting him or her to apply for travel authorization to enter the United States.

After I file, how long will it take before my relative's petition can be approved?

The time it takes to process and approve your relative's petition depends on a number of factors. Once you file, we will send you a receipt. You can check and monitor current processing times on our website.

If I marry after I become a refugee or asylee, can I file an I-730 for my husband or wife?

You cannot file an I-730 for your husband or wife if the marriage occurred after you become a refugee or asylee. However, you may want to get legal advice to determine if there are any other immigration benefits available to your spouse.

Can I help any other relatives?

The law limits eligibility to the relatives listed in this customer guide (spouse and unmarried children under 21 years old).

If my relative is granted refugee or asylee status, can he or she file an I-730 for another family member?

If your relative was granted refugee or asylee status based on his or her relationship to you, the relative cannot file a Form I-730 for other family members.

Key Information

Key USCIS forms referenced in this guide	Form #
Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition	I-730

USCIS

- **On the Internet at: www.uscis.gov**

For more copies of this guide, or information about other citizenship and immigration services, please visit our website. You can also download forms, e-file some applications, check the status of an application, and more. It's a great place to start!

If you don't have Internet access at home or work, try your local library. If you cannot find what you need, please call Customer Service.

- **Customer Service: 1-800-375-5283**
- Hearing Impaired TDD Customer Service: 1-800-767-1833

Other U.S. Government Services—Click or Call		
General Information	www.usagov.gov	1-800-333-4636
New Immigrants	www.welcometoUSA.gov	
U.S. Dept. of State	www.state.gov	1-202-647-6575

Disclaimer: This guide provides basic information to help you become generally familiar with our rules and procedures. For more information, or the law and regulations, please visit our website. Immigration law can be complex, and it is impossible to describe every aspect of every process. You may wish to be represented by a licensed attorney or by a nonprofit agency accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals.