



Catholic Charities

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

“Serving those in need
as Christ would have us do.”

Immigration Services

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How Catholic Charities Helps People become Legalized

Immigrant Visas- Through Family

Naturalization - You have been a permanent resident for at least 5 years and meet all other eligibility requirements or for 3 years or more and meet all eligibility requirements to file as a spouse of a U.S. citizen.

Non Immigrant Visas- Short term visas provided to come to the US for a specific purpose and for a specific duration: Religious, Student, extension of Tourist.

How Catholic Charities Helps People become Legalized

Humanitarian- TPS (Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras, Sudan, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Guinea, Liberia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen and Syria), Asylum, (Asylee's Petition), Refugee (Refugee's Petition), U, T, VAWA, DACA

Special Juvenile Immigrants and Unaccompanied Minors

Central American Minors Program (CAM)

Family Based Immigration

Who can Apply?

USC can apply for Spouses, Parents and Minor, unmarried children with no wait, only takes as long as it takes to process the application (8 months to 3 years)

USC can apply for Adult Children, Married Children and their families, Brothers and Sisters and their families.

LPRs can apply for Spouses and Unmarried Children only

What is TPS

- TPS giving to people already in the US due to conditions in the country that temporarily prevent the country's nationals from returning safely, or in certain circumstances, where the country is unable to handle the return of its nationals adequately.

Victims of Criminal Activity: U Nonimmigrant Status and

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

- The U nonimmigrant status (U visa) is set aside for victims of certain crimes who have suffered mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity
- VAWA allows certain spouses, children, and parents of U.S. citizens and certain spouses and children of permanent residents (Green Card holders) to file a petition for themselves, without the abuser's knowledge.

Special Juvenile Immigrants and Unaccompanied Minors (SIJS)

- Refer to immigrants who are under the age of 18 and are not under the care of a parent or legal guardian. This includes children fleeing violence or unrest, seeking work, or who are victims of trafficking.

DACA

- On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the United States as children and meet several guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal. They are also eligible for work authorization. Deferred action is a use of prosecutorial discretion to defer removal action against an individual for a certain period of time.

“Rescission of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” (DACA) According to the memorandum:

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will not accept any applications for an initial request of DACA and associated employment eligibility filed after September 5, 2017;
- USCIS will continue to process applications for an initial grant of DACA and associated employment eligibility filed on or before September 5, 2017;
- USCIS will continue to process applications for DACA renewal and associated employment eligibility filed on or before September 5, 2017;
- Current DACA recipients whose grant of DACA expires between September 5, 2017, and March 5, 2018, may file an application for DACA renewal and associated employment eligibility by October 5, 2017;

According to the memorandum:

- USCIS will not accept any new applications for advance parole from DACA recipients;
- As of September 5, 2017, USCIS will administratively close all pending applications for advance parole from DACA recipients and refund filing fees.

According to the memorandum:

- Current DACA recipients whose grant of DACA expires after March 5, 2018, will not be eligible to file an application for DACA renewal. These individuals will lose their DACA status and benefits upon expiration of their current grant of DACA;
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security will continue to honor previously-approved grants of advance parole from DACA recipients;

Who is being targeted for these special USCIS interviews?

- Those receiving interview notices from the USCIS are former Burmese refugees resettled in the United States, were living in Malaysia before being resettled, and have not yet naturalized.

Why are clients being called in for interviews?

- In 2014, USCIS learned that from 2009 – 2010 there could be 1,700 Burmese refugees who either falsified personal information or whose personal information was used by someone else

How will representatives know if a client is required to attend an interview?

- Individuals who have been identified through the investigation will receive a letter scheduling them for an interview at the local USCIS field office in the jurisdiction where they reside.

What kind of questions are being asked at the interview?

- According to information provided by our network, interviewing officers are asking questions pertaining to identity and biographical information of refugees. Questions include name, date and place of birth, parents' names, children's names, addresses in Malaysia, names used and given to CBOs, UNHCR, USCIS and resettlement support centers (RSCs) in Malaysia.

Are the interviews mandatory?

- Each USCIS appointment letter indicates whether the interview is voluntary or mandatory. USCIS has stated that refugees with pending applications will have mandatory interviews, and those with no pending applications will have voluntary interviews. The USCIS has warned that they may make decisions affecting immigration status even for those who do not attend a voluntary interview.

Can clients bring an attorney or representative to the interview?

- It is highly suggested that representatives accompany clients to these interviews. While refugees were not able to bring attorneys or advocates to the USCIS interviews overseas, they are able to bring attorneys and/or accredited representatives to all USCIS interviews in the U.S.

Why Apply for Adjustment of Status and requirements?

- For refugees, it's statutorily mandated at 8 CFR §209.1(a):
- *Every alien in the United States who is classified as a refugee under 8 CFR part 207, whose status has not been terminated, is required to apply to USCIS one year after entry in order for USCIS to determine his or her admissibility under section 212 of the Act..."*

Filing Process for Refugees

- I-485 and G-325A
- Evidence of refugee status (I-94)
- Government issued
- identity document with photo
- I-693 with vaccination portion completed;

Why Apply for Naturalization and Eligibility Requirements

- The Constitution and laws of the United States give many rights to both citizens and non-citizens living in the United States. However, some rights are only for citizens, such as:
 - Voting
 - Bringing family members to the United States.
 - Obtaining citizenship for children born abroad
 - Traveling with a U.S. passport
 - Becoming eligible for Federal jobs
 - Becoming an elected official
 - Showing your patriotism

General requirements for naturalization

- Be at least 18 years old at the time of filing [Form N-400, Application for Naturalization](#).
- Be a permanent resident (have a “Green Card”) for at least 5 years.
- Show that you have lived for at least 3 months in the state or USCIS district where you apply.
- Demonstrate continuous residence in the United States for at least 5 years immediately preceding the date of filing Form N-400.

General requirements for naturalization

- Show that you have been physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the 5 years immediately preceding the date of filing Form N-400.
- Be able to read, write, and speak basic English.
- Have a basic understanding of U.S. history and government (civics).
- Be a person of good moral character.
- Demonstrate an attachment to the principles and ideals of the U.S. Constitution.

TPS Designations and UPCOMING TERMINATIONS

- USCIS may grant TPS to eligible nationals of certain countries (or parts of countries), who are already in the United States. Eligible individuals without nationality who last resided in the designated country may also be granted TPS.

The Secretary may designate a country for TPS due to the following temporary conditions in the country:

- Ongoing armed conflict (such as civil war)
- An environmental disaster (such as earthquake or hurricane), or an epidemic
- Other extraordinary and temporary conditions

TPS

- Sudan: Nov. 2, 2018 (TPS since 11/04/1997)
- Nicaragua: Jan. 5, 2019 (TPS since 01/15/1999)
- Nepal: June 24, 2019 (TPS since 06/24/2015)
- Haiti: Jul. 22, 2019 (TPS since 01/21/2010)
- El Salvador: Sept. 9, 2019 (TPS since 03/09/2001)
- Honduras: Jan 5, 2020 (01/05/1999)

UPCOMING DECISIONS

- Yemen: Jul. 5, 2018 (TPS since 09/03/2015)
- Somalia: Jul. 19, 2018
- TPS Designation Date: Sept. 16, 1991
- TPS Re-designation Dates: Sept. 4, 2001, and Sept.18, 2012
- South Sudan: Mar. 3, 2019 (TPS since 11/03/2011)
- Syria: Aug. 1, 2019 (TPS since 03/29/2012)

