



October 29, 2021

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Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Evidence Supporting Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness-Based Adjustment of Status Applications

Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is updating policy guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) to clarify what steps applicants must take if they are not able to submit primary evidence of Liberian nationality to support an application for adjustment of status under the Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness (LRIF) law.

Background

LRIF allows certain Liberian nationals and their spouses, unmarried children under 21 years old, or unmarried sons and daughters 21 years or older living in the United States who meet the eligibility requirements to apply for lawful permanent residence. Noncitizens applying to adjust status based on LRIF must properly file an Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (Form I-485), which must be received on or by December 20, 2021, the statutory filing deadline.

USCIS is expanding on current Policy Manual language to explain what applicants must do if they are not able to submit primary evidence of Liberian nationality to support an LRIF-based adjustment application. While this update does not change the evidentiary requirements, it expands current guidance to clarify how to meet them. This update, contained in Volume 7 of the Policy Manual, is effective immediately. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance.

Policy Highlights

- Clarifies that, according to the U.S. Department of State's [Reciprocity and Civil Documents by Country for Liberia](#), primary evidence (which includes, but is not limited to, an unexpired Liberian passport and Liberian certificate of naturalization) is currently available to applicants.
- Explains that, in the event an applicant cannot provide primary evidence, the applicant must submit secondary evidence of Liberian nationality and demonstrate why the applicant cannot provide primary evidence.
- Explains in more detail what the statement accompanying secondary evidence may include, as well as examples of evidence the applicant may provide to support the statement, and

emphasizes that applicants should submit all evidence available to them to support their application.

Citation

Volume 7: Adjustment of Status, Part P, Other Adjustment Programs, Chapter 5, Liberian Refugee Immigration Fairness [[7 USCIS-PM P.5](#)].