



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

FROM PETITION FILING TO GREEN CARD



Becoming a Lawful Permanent Resident

03/13/2019

Lawful Permanent Resident Terminology



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Lawful Permanent Residents may also be identified by using the following terms:

- Resident Alien
- LPR
- Permanent Resident
- Green Card Holder

Individuals seeking to become LPR's by adjusting status in the United States generally must have an underlying immigrant petition approved on their behalf.



General Application Process



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The steps you must take to apply for a Green Card while in the United States will vary depending on your individual situation. However, here is the general application process that most applicants will go through:

- **First you must establish the basis for “adjusting status” to lawful permanent residence. There are several different categories for which you may apply for permanent resident status (e.g. family, employment, humanitarian, etc).**
- **Many of these categories require an approved underlying visa petition filed by a family member or employer.**

Who May Qualify for a Green Card?



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Relationship to family member qualified to sponsor you –

- U.S. Citizens can file for their spouse, children of any age, parents and siblings.
- Permanent Residents can file for their spouse, children under 21 and unmarried sons or daughters over 21.
- Learn more at www.uscis.gov/greencard

Who May Qualify for a Green Card?



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- **Relationship to employer qualified to sponsor you**
- **Qualify as a refugee or asylee**
- **Apply through Diversity Lottery**
- **Other humanitarian or special categories**

Are Interviews Required?



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- **Most applicants for adjustment of status will have an interview with certain exceptions.**
- **An interview may be with the applicant as well as the petitioner depending upon the basis for adjustment.**

Decision on the Application



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- **The officer will make a decision on the application**
 - If the application is approved, the applicant will receive their green card in the mail
 - If the application is denied, the applicant will receive a denial notice with an explanation on why they did not qualify as well as information regarding potential next steps.
 - If the officer requires additional information or the application requires additional review, the case may be continued and more information may be requested at a later date.



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About this Presentation



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