



Immigration Options for Family of Certain Military Members and Veterans



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

What is Parole in Place?

Parole in place allows a foreign national who came into the United States without authorization by an immigration officer to stay for a certain period of time. Parole in place is granted on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. Parole is considered a lawful immigration status for purposes of certain immigration benefits, such as a Green Card. Parole, however, does not excuse any periods of unlawful presence outside of the parole period.

Why would I need parole in place? If you are in the United States without authorization by an immigration officer, you may be ineligible for several immigration benefits. If your request for parole in place is approved, you:

- Do not accrue unlawful presence during the period specified;
- May apply for a work permit for the specified period (see Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization); and
- May be able to apply for an immigration benefit that requires a lawful entry, including a Green Card, if you are eligible. Note that parole by itself does not lead to any immigration status or other immigration benefit.

Am I eligible for parole in place? You may be eligible for parole in place in one-year increments if you are the spouse, widow(er), parent, son, or daughter of:

- An active-duty member of the U.S. armed forces;
- An individual in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve; or
- A military veteran (whether living or deceased, as long as he or she was not dishonorably discharged) who served in active duty or in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve.

How do I request parole in place?

- You will need to complete Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, and submit it (without fee) to your local USCIS office.
- You will also need to provide copies of documents that show you are eligible for parole in place (do not submit originals). This includes evidence of the family relationship, and proof that your relative is or was an active-duty member of the U.S. armed forces or in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve.
- For complete details on how to request parole in place, please visit www.uscis.gov/military/discretionary-options.

KEY TERMS:

- DA – Deferred Action
- DACA – Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
- DEP – Department of Defense Delayed Entry Program
- LPR – Lawful Permanent Resident
- MAVNI – Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest
- PIP – Parole in Place
- TPS – Temporary Protected Status

What is Deferred Action?

Deferred action is a discretionary decision to postpone someone’s removal from the United States for a certain period of time. Deferred action does not provide lawful status, and it does not excuse any periods of unlawful presence outside of the deferred action period.

Why would I need deferred action? If you are subject to removal and are not eligible for parole in place or a lawful status, deferred action would allow you to stay in the United States for a certain period of time. If your request for deferred action is approved, you:

- Are considered to be lawfully present in the United States for the period specified; and
- May apply for a work permit for the specified period if there is financial need (see Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization).

Am I eligible for deferred action? You may be eligible for deferred action in two-year increments if:

- You are the spouse, widow(er), parent, son, or daughter of:
 - An active-duty member of the U.S. armed forces;
 - An individual in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve; or
 - A military veteran (whether living or deceased, as long as he or she was not dishonorably discharged) who served in active duty or in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve; or
- You are an enlistee - or the spouse, parent, son, or daughter of an enlistee - in the Department of Defense Delayed Entry Program (DEP), including through the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) program.

How do I request deferred action?

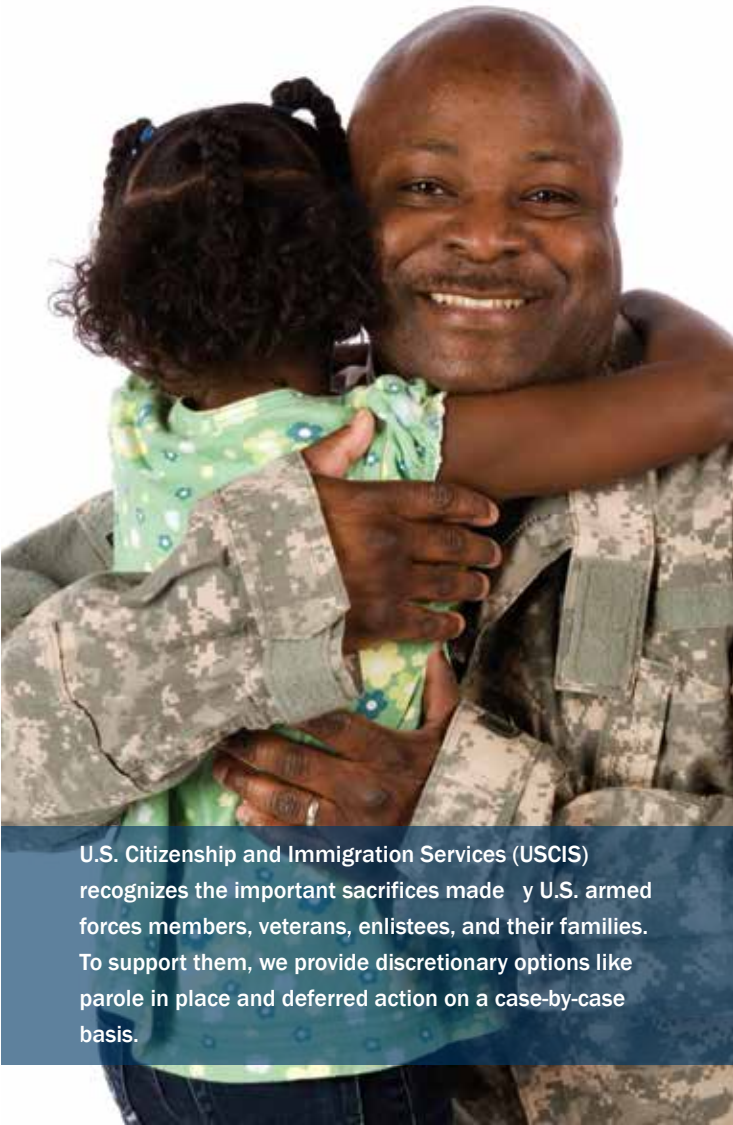
- You will need to provide a letter to your local USCIS office explaining why you are requesting deferred action.
- You will also need to provide copies of documents that show you are eligible for deferred action (do not submit originals). This includes evidence of the family relationship (if applicable), and proof that your relative is or was an active-duty member of the U.S. armed forces or in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, or that you or your relative is a DEP enlistee.
- For complete details on how to request deferred action, please visit www.uscis.gov/military/discretionary-options.

	MILITARY PERSON	FAMILY MEMBER	OPTIONS AVAILABLE
DEP ENLISTEE (non-MAVNI)	U.S. Citizen	Spouse	DA
		Child (under 21, unmarried) ^a	DA
		Son or daughter (21+, unmarried)	DA
		Son or daughter (married)	DA
		Parent	DA
	LPR	Spouse	DA
		Child (under 21, unmarried)	DA
		Son or daughter (21+, unmarried)	DA
		Son or daughter (married)	DA
		Parent	DA
DEP ENLISTEE (MAVNI)	Nonimmigrant, TPS, DACA	MAVNI recruit him/herself	DA
		Spouse	DA
		Child (under 21, unmarried)	DA
		Son or daughter (21+ or married)	DA
		Parent	DA
MILITARY MEMBER (Active Duty, Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, or Veteran) - LIVING	U.S. Citizen	Spouse	PIP or DA
		Child (under 21, unmarried) ^a	PIP or DA
		Son or daughter (21+, unmarried)	PIP or DA
		Son or daughter (married)	PIP or DA
		Parent	PIP or DA
	LPR	Spouse	PIP or LPR
		Child (under 21, unmarried)	PIP or DA
		Son or daughter (21+, unmarried)	PIP or DA
		Son or daughter (married)	PIP or DA
		Parent	PIP or DA
MILITARY MEMBER (Active Duty, Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, or Veteran) - DECEASED	U.S. Citizen	Spouse	PIP or DA
		Child (under 21, unmarried) ^a	PIP or DA
		Son or daughter (21+, unmarried)	PIP or DA
		Son or daughter (married)	PIP or DA
		Parent	PIP or DA
	LPR	Spouse	PIP or DA
		Child (under 21, unmarried)	PIP or DA
		Son or daughter (21+, unmarried)	PIP or DA
		Son or daughter (married)	PIP or DA
		Parent	PIP or DA

^a Natural-born children of U.S. citizens might derive citizenship from the U.S. citizen parent.
Note: If you are granted parole in place or deferred action, you may need to file a petition (or have a petition filed on your behalf) before making another request. For more information, contact your local USCIS office.

Contact Us

For any questions about these options, please call our Military Help Line at **877-CIS-4MIL** (877-247-4645) or make an appointment at a field office (<https://my.uscis.gov/appointment>) and ask to speak to an officer who handles military cases. You may also visit www.uscis.gov/military/discretionary-options.



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) recognizes the important sacrifices made by U.S. armed forces members, veterans, enlistees, and their families. To support them, we provide discretionary options like parole in place and deferred action on a case-by-case basis.

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