



# Instructions for Form I-955, Application for CNMI Long-Term Resident Status

Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS  
Form I-955

## What Is the Purpose of Form I-955?

You should use this application if you wish to apply for NM-1, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Resident Status. Public Law 116-24, the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act (48 U.S.C. 1806(e)(6)), established the CNMI Resident status for certain aliens who have resided continuously and lawfully in the CNMI since November 28, 2009.

**NOTE: This application must be filed together with Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, listing your eligibility category as Applicant for Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Long-Term Resident Status -- (c)(37). If you do not include a complete Form I-765 with all applicable fees with your Form I-955, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will reject your entire submission.**

## Who May File Form I-955?

The following classes of aliens in the CNMI are eligible for CNMI Resident status:

- **Certain “stateless” individuals.** Foreign nationals born in what is now the CNMI between January 1, 1974, and January 9, 1978;
- **Immediate relatives of “stateless” individuals.** Spouses or children, under 21 years of age and unmarried, of a foreign national born in the CNMI between January 1, 1974, and January 9, 1978;
- **CNMI permanent residents under CNMI immigration law.** Individuals who on November 27, 2009, were permanent residents of the CNMI (as defined in section 4303 of title 3 of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Code, in effect on May 8, 2008);
- **Immediate relatives of CNMI permanent residents.** Spouses or children, under 21 years of age and unmarried, of an individual who on November 27, 2009, was a permanent resident of the CNMI (as defined in section 4303 of title 3 of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Code, in effect on May 8, 2008);
- **Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.** Individuals who on November 27, 2011, were either a spouse, child, or parent of a U.S. citizen, notwithstanding the age of the U.S. citizen, and continues to have such family relationship with the citizen; and
- **In-home caregivers.** Caregivers of critical medical or special needs individuals in the CNMI who on December 31, 2018, had a grant of parole under Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 212(d)(5) (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) under the former USCIS parole program for certain in-home caregivers.

**In addition to being part of an eligible class as described above, individuals must also meet all of the following requirements:**

- Have been lawfully present on December 31, 2018 or on June 25, 2019, in the CNMI under the immigration laws of the United States, including under a grant of parole under INA section 212(d)(5) (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) or deferred action;
- Be admissible as an immigrant to the United States under the INA (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), except that no immigrant visa is required;
- Have resided continuously and lawfully in the CNMI from November 28, 2009, through June 25, 2019; and
- Not be a citizen of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau.

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## Who May Not Be Eligible for CNMI Resident Status?

### Grounds of Inadmissibility

Immigration laws specify acts, conditions, and conduct that can make foreign nationals ineligible for CNMI Resident status. These acts, conditions, and conduct are outlined in INA section 212(a) and are called **grounds of inadmissibility**.

You are ineligible for CNMI Resident status if you fall under one or more of the grounds of inadmissibility, except that no immigrant visa is required.

If you are inadmissible, you may be eligible for a waiver of the grounds of inadmissibility or another form of relief. (See the **Additional Instructions if You are Inadmissible** section of these Instructions.) If your waiver request or other form of relief is granted, your application for CNMI Resident status may be approved.

**NOTE:** For the questions in **Part 8. General Eligibility and Inadmissibility Grounds**, the term “United States,” when used in a geographical sense, means the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and the CNMI. INA section 101(a)(38) (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(38)).

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## General Instructions

USCIS provides forms free of charge through the USCIS website. To view, print, or fill out our forms, you should use the latest version of Adobe Reader, which you can download for free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>. If you do not have internet access, you may call the USCIS Contact Center at **1-800-375-5283** and ask that we mail a form to you. The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish. For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: **1-800-767-1833**.

**Signature.** Each application must be properly signed and filed. For all signatures on this application, USCIS will not accept a stamped or typewritten name in place of a signature. A legal guardian may also sign for a mentally incompetent person. If the request is not signed or if the requisite signature on the request is not valid, USCIS will reject the request. See 8 CFR 103.2(a)(7)(ii)(A). If USCIS accepts a request for adjudication and determines that it has a deficient signature, USCIS will deny the request.

**Validity of Signatures.** USCIS will consider a photocopied, faxed, or scanned copy of the original, handwritten signature valid for filing purposes. The photocopy, fax, or scan must be of the original document containing the handwritten ink signature.

**Filing Fee.** Each application must be accompanied by the appropriate filing fee and biometric services fee (if applicable). (See the **What Is the Filing Fee** section of these Instructions.) If you file this application with an agency other than USCIS, check with that agency to determine if and when you must submit biometric services fees.

**Evidence.** At the time of filing, you must submit all evidence and supporting documents listed in the **What Evidence Must You Submit** section of these Instructions.

**Biometric Services Appointment.** USCIS may require that you appear for an interview or provide biometrics (fingerprints, photograph, and/or signature) at any time to verify your identity, obtain additional information, and conduct background and security checks, including a check of criminal history records maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), before making a decision on your application or petition. After USCIS receives your application and ensures it is complete, we will inform you in writing if you need to attend a biometric services appointment. If an appointment is necessary, the notice will provide you the location of your local or designated USCIS Application Support Center (ASC) and the date and time of your appointment or, if you are currently overseas, instruct you to contact a U.S. Embassy, U.S. Consulate, or USCIS office outside the United States to set up an appointment.

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If you are required to provide biometrics, at your appointment you must sign an oath reaffirming that:

1. You provided or authorized all information in the application;
2. You reviewed and understood all of the information contained in, and submitted with, your application; and
3. All of this information was complete, true, and correct at the time of filing.

If you fail to attend your biometric services appointment, USCIS may deny your application.

**Copies.** You should submit legible photocopies of documents requested, unless the Instructions specifically state that you must submit an original document. USCIS may request an original document at the time of filing or at any time during processing of an application or petition. If USCIS requests an original document from you, it will be returned to you after USCIS determines it no longer needs your original.

**NOTE:** If you submit original documents when not required or requested by USCIS or the Immigration Court, **your original documents may be immediately destroyed after we receive them.**

**Translations.** If you submit a document with information in a foreign language, you must also submit a full English translation. The translator must sign a certification that the English language translation is complete and accurate, and that he or she is competent to translate from the foreign language into English. The certification must also include the translator's signature, printed name, the signature date, and the translator's contact information.

### How to Fill Out Form I-955

1. Type or print legibly in black ink.
2. If you need extra space to complete any item within this application, use the space provided in **Part 14. Additional Information** or attach a separate sheet of paper. Type or print your name and Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (if any) at the top of each sheet; indicate the **Page Number, Part Number,** and **Item Number** to which your answer refers; and sign and date each sheet.
3. Answer all questions fully and accurately. If a question does not apply to you (for example, if you have never been married and the question asks, "Provide the name of your current spouse"), type or print "N/A" unless otherwise directed. If your answer to a question which requires a numeric response is zero or none (for example, "How many children do you have" or "How many times have you departed the United States"), type or print "None" unless otherwise directed.
4. **Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record.** If U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or USCIS issued you a Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record, provide your most recent I-94 number and date that your authorized period of stay expires or expired (as shown on your Form I-94) in **Part 1., Item Number 13.** The Form I-94 number also is known as the Departure Number on some versions of Form I-94.

**NOTE:** If you were admitted to the United States by CBP at an airport or seaport after April 30, 2013, CBP may have issued you an electronic Form I-94 instead of a paper Form I-94. You may visit the CBP website at [www.cbp.gov/i94](http://www.cbp.gov/i94) to obtain a paper version of an electronic Form I-94. CBP **does not** charge a fee for this service. Some travelers admitted to the United States at a land border, airport, or seaport after April 30, 2013, with a passport or travel document, who were issued a paper Form I-94 by CBP, may also be able to obtain a replacement Form I-94 from the CBP website without charge. If you cannot obtain your Form I-94 from the CBP website, you may obtain it by filing Form I-102, Application for Replacement/Initial Nonimmigrant Arrival-Departure Record, with USCIS. USCIS **does** charge a fee for this service. See the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov/I-102](http://www.uscis.gov/I-102) for more information.

**NOTE:** If your most recent admission to the CNMI was before November 28, 2009, you were admitted by CNMI authorities under CNMI immigration law rather than by CBP. Please provide all available information about the date and circumstances of your admission, including copies of any relevant documentation you may possess.

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**Passport and Travel Document Numbers.** If you used a passport or travel document to travel to the CNMI, enter either the passport information or information from the travel document from your most recent entry into the CNMI in **Part 1., Item Numbers 13. - 16.b.** on the application, even if the passport or travel document is currently expired. If you have been issued a new passport while in the CNMI, provide your current passport information in **Part 1., Item Numbers 14. - 16.b.**

5. **Biographic Information.** Provide the biographic information requested. Providing this information as part of your application may reduce the time you spend at your USCIS ASC appointment as described in the **Biometric Services Appointment** section of these Instructions.
- A. **Ethnicity and Race.** Select the boxes that best describe your ethnicity and race.
- B. **Categories and Definitions for Ethnicity and Race**
- (1) **Hispanic or Latino.** A person of Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. (NOTE: This category is only included under Ethnicity in **Part 7., Item Number 1.**)
  - (2) **American Indian or Alaska Native.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment.
  - (3) **Asian.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.
  - (4) **Black or African American.** A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa.
  - (5) **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.
  - (6) **White.** A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.
- C. **Height.** Select the values that best match your height in feet and inches. For example, if you are five feet and nine inches, select “5” for feet and “09” for inches. Do not enter your height in meters or centimeters.
- D. **Weight.** Enter your weight in pounds. If you do not know your weight or need to enter a weight under 30 pounds or over 699 pounds, enter “000.” Do not enter your weight in kilograms.
- E. **Eye Color.** Select the box that best describes the color of your eyes.
- F. **Hair Color.** Select the box that best describes the color of your hair.
6. **Part 8. General Eligibility and Inadmissibility Grounds.** Select the answer you think is correct. If you answer “Yes” to any questions (or if you answer “No,” but are unsure of your answer), provide an explanation of the events and circumstances in the space provided in **Part 14. Additional Information.**
- If you answer “Yes” to **Part 8., Item Numbers 60. and 61.,** attach evidence of any public assistance you received, or are likely to receive while in the United States. For more information on the receipt of public benefits and its impact on public charge determinations, please see [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).
7. **Part 10. Applicant’s Statement, Contact Information, Certification, and Signature.** Select the appropriate box to indicate whether you read this application yourself or whether you had an interpreter assist you. If someone assisted you in completing the application, select the box indicating that you used a preparer. Further, you must sign and date your application and provide your daytime telephone number, mobile telephone number (if any), and email address (if any). Every application **MUST** contain the signature of the applicant (or parent or legal guardian, if applicable). A stamped or typewritten name in place of a signature is not acceptable.

- 8. Part 11. Interpreter’s Contact Information, Certification, and Signature.** If you used anyone as an interpreter to read the Instructions and questions on this application to you in a language in which you are fluent, the interpreter must fill out this section; provide his or her name, the name and address of his or her business or organization (if any), his or her daytime telephone number, his or her mobile telephone number (if any), and his or her email address (if any). The interpreter must sign and date the application.
- 9. Part 12. Contact Information, Declaration, and Signature of the Person Preparing this Application, if Other Than the Applicant.** This section must contain the signature of the person who completed your application, if other than you, the applicant. If the same individual acted as your interpreter **and** your preparer, that person should complete both **Part 11.** and **Part 12.** If the person who completed this application is associated with a business or organization, that person should complete the business or organization name and address information. Anyone who helped you complete this application **MUST** sign and date the application. A stamped or typewritten name in place of a signature is not acceptable. If the person who helped you prepare your application is an attorney or accredited representative, he or she may also need to submit a completed Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative, along with your application.
- 10. Part 14. Additional Information.** If you need extra space to provide any additional information within this application, use the space provided in **Part 14. Additional Information.** If you need more space than what is provided in **Part 14.**, you may make copies of **Part 14.** to complete and file with your application, or attach a separate sheet of paper. Type or print your name and A-Number (if any) at the top of each sheet; indicate the **Page Number**, **Part Number**, and **Item Number** to which your answer refers; and sign and date each sheet.

**We recommend that you print or save a copy of your completed application to review in the future and for your records. We recommend that you review your copy of your completed application before you go to your biometric services appointment at a USCIS ASC.** At your appointment, USCIS will permit you to complete the application process only if you are able to confirm, under penalty of perjury, that all of the information in your application is complete, true, and correct. If you are not able to make that attestation in good faith at that time, USCIS will require you to return for another appointment.

### **What Evidence Must You Submit?**

You must submit all evidence requested in these Instructions with your application. If you fail to submit required evidence, USCIS may reject or deny your application for failure to submit requested evidence or supporting documents in accordance with 8 CFR 103.2(b)(1) and these Instructions.

Failure to submit all required evidence and documentation when filing Form I-955 may also delay processing of your application and any related applications based on Form I-955, such as Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization.

If you are unable to submit the required primary evidence (for example, a birth certificate or marriage certificate), you may provide secondary evidence (for example, church or school records) instead if you can explain why the primary evidence is unavailable. If you are unable to submit secondary evidence, you may submit two or more affidavits, sworn to or affirmed by individuals who are not parties to the immigration benefit sought and who have direct personal knowledge of the event and circumstances. You must also explain why primary and secondary evidence are unavailable. Please see 8 CFR 103.2(b)(2) for additional information.

#### **1. Government-Issued Identity Document with Photograph**

All applicants must submit a photocopy of a government-issued identity document that has their photograph. Typically, this will be your passport or similar document, even if the passport is now expired. It can also be any other government-issued identity document such as a driver’s license or military identification document.

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## 2. Birth Certificate

All applicants must submit a photocopy of their birth certificate issued by the appropriate civil authority from the country of birth. USCIS will only accept a long-form birth certificate which lists at least one parent.

If your birth certificate is unavailable or does not exist, you must prove its unavailability or nonexistence and provide acceptable alternative evidence of birth. You can look up your country of birth on the following website, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/Visa-Reciprocity-and-Civil-Documents-by-Country.html>, to see if birth certificates are known to be unavailable or nonexistent in that country.

If this resource shows that birth certificates from your country of birth are generally unavailable or nonexistent, you do not need to do anything to prove that your birth certificate is unavailable or nonexistent.

If this resource does not show that birth certificates from your country of birth are generally unavailable or nonexistent, you must submit an original document from the relevant governmental authority explaining why your birth record does not exist and indicate whether similar records for the time and place are available.

If your birth certificate is not available or does not exist, you must submit other acceptable evidence relating to the facts of your birth, such as church or school records, hospital or medical records, personal affidavits, or similar evidence.

## 3. Inspection and Admission or Inspection and Parole

All applicants must submit photocopies of documentation showing they were inspected by an immigration officer and either admitted or paroled into the CNMI. This evidence must relate to your most recent arrival into the CNMI. Submit copies of the following documents, if available:

- A. Passport page with admission or parole stamp;
- B. Passport page with nonimmigrant visa; and
- C. Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record, or evidence of admission by CNMI authorities.

If you cannot produce this primary evidence, you may, however, provide secondary evidence (records maintained in the ordinary course of business by any individual or organization other than Department of Homeland Security (DHS)) to support your claim that you were admitted or paroled. If no secondary evidence is available, you may submit separate written statements, signed under penalty of perjury under United States law, from yourself and from any other individuals who have personal knowledge of the circumstances of your claimed admission or parole. Any statement should explain in detail when and where you came into the CNMI; what travel documents you had, if any; whether you showed them to the immigration inspector; any questions the immigration inspector asked; and any other details about your claimed admission or parole.

## 4. Marriage Certificate and Other Proof of Relationship

If you are filing Form I-955 as the spouse of a stateless individual, a permanent resident of the CNMI, or a United States citizen as described in the **Who May File Form I-955** section of these Instructions, you must submit a photocopy of your marriage certificate issued by the appropriate civil authority where the marriage took place.

If either party to your marriage was previously married, you must also submit evidence to prove the legal termination of any prior marriages, typically a divorce certificate or death certificate. If a required marriage certificate (or divorce certificate or death certificate) is unavailable or does not exist, you must demonstrate its unavailability/nonexistence and provide other acceptable evidence as explained above for birth certificates.

If you are filing as the child of a stateless individual or a permanent resident of the CNMI, or as the child or parent of a United States citizen as described in the **Who May File Form I-955** section of these Instructions, and your birth certificate does not show that the stateless individual, CNMI permanent resident, or United States citizen is your parent, you must submit a photocopy of your parents' marriage certificate, your adoption certificate, or other proof of your parent-child relationship.

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## 5. Evidence of Lawful Presence

You must submit evidence to show that you were lawfully present in the CMNI on December 31, 2018 or on June 25, 2019. Acceptable evidence may include, but is not limited to, copies of the following documents:

- A. Form I-797 approval notices for all extensions and changes of nonimmigrant status;
- B. Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record, including printouts of paperless I-94 admissions; or
- C. Passport pages with admission or parole stamps (issued by a U.S. or CNMI immigration officer).

## 6. Evidence of Continuously Maintaining a Lawful Status and Residence

You must submit evidence to show that you have resided continuously and lawfully in the CNMI from November 28, 2009, through June 25, 2019. You do not need to submit documentation showing that you were present in the CNMI on every single day during the requisite period of continuous residence, but you should not have significant chronological gaps in your documentation. You may establish continuous residence even if you have made numerous brief departures from the CNMI.

You may submit as many documents as necessary to establish continuous residence during the period of time since your claimed date of entry. Examples of the types of evidence you may submit include:

- A. Income tax records;
- B. Mortgage deeds or leases;
- C. Insurance premiums and policies;
- D. Birth, marriage, and death certificates of immediate family members;
- E. Medical records;
- F. Bank records;
- G. School records;
- H. All types of receipts that contain identifying information about you;
- I. Census records;
- J. Social Security records;
- K. Newspaper articles concerning you;
- L. Employment records;
- M. Military records;
- N. Draft records;
- O. Car registrations;
- P. Union membership records; and
- Q. Affidavits from credible witnesses having a personal knowledge of your residence in the CNMI, submitted with the witness' contact information.

Although you may submit affidavits, you should provide some type of additional evidence to support the application.

## 7. Evidence of Financial Support

In general, you must demonstrate that you are not likely to become a public charge. This means you must show that you will be able to financially support yourself as a long-term resident living indefinitely in the CNMI.

For more information on how receiving public benefits may impact how USCIS determines if you are likely to become a public charge, visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

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## 8. Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record (Form I-693)

In general, you must demonstrate that you are not inadmissible under any health-related ground of inadmissibility under INA section 212(a)(1). You may be required to submit Form I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record. If you are required to submit Form I-693, USCIS will issue you a request for evidence.

## 9. Certified Police and Court Records of Criminal Charges, Arrests, or Convictions

You must submit certified police and court records for any criminal charges, arrests, or convictions you may have.

- A. If you were **EVER** arrested or detained by a law enforcement officer for any reason **anywhere** in the world, and no criminal charges were filed, you must submit:
  - (1) An original or certified copy of the complete arrest report; and
  - (2) Either an official statement by the arresting or detaining agency or prosecutor's office OR an applicable court order that indicates the final disposition of your arrest or detention.
- B. If you were **EVER** charged for any reason (even if you were not arrested) **anywhere** in the world, you must submit:
  - (1) An original or certified copy of the complete arrest report; and
  - (2) Certified copies of **BOTH** the indictment, information, or other formal charging document **AND** the final disposition of each charge (for example, a dismissal order or acquittal order).
- C. If you were **EVER** convicted or placed in an alternative sentencing or rehabilitative program (such as probation, drug treatment, deferred adjudication, or community service program) **anywhere** in the world, you must submit:
  - (1) An original or certified copy of the complete arrest report;
  - (2) Certified copies of the following: the indictment, information, or other formal charging document; any plea agreement, whether in the form of a court filing or recording in a hearing transcript; and the final disposition for each incident (for example, conviction record, deferred adjudication order, or probation order); and
  - (3) Either an original or certified copy of your probation or parole record showing that you completed the mandated sentence, conditions set for the deferred adjudication, or rehabilitative program OR documentation showing that you completed the alternative sentencing or rehabilitative program.
- D. If you **EVER** had any arrest or conviction vacated, set aside, sealed, expunged, or otherwise removed from your record anywhere in the world, you must submit:
  - (1) An original or certified copy of the complete arrest report; the indictment, information, or other formal charging document; any plea agreement, whether in the form of a court filing or recording in a hearing transcript; and the final disposition for each incident (for example, conviction record, deferred adjudication order, or probation order); and
  - (2) A certified copy of the court order vacating, setting aside, sealing, expunging, or otherwise removing the arrest or conviction.

You must disclose all arrests and charges, even if the arrest occurred when you were a minor. An adjudication of juvenile delinquency is not a "conviction" under U.S. immigration law, but a juvenile can be charged as an adult for an offense committed while a juvenile. If you were convicted as an adult, there is a conviction, regardless of whether you were tried before a criminal court or a juvenile court. An adjudication of juvenile delinquency could also be relevant to the exercise of discretion. If you claim that an arrest resulted in adjudication of delinquency, and not in a conviction, you must submit a copy of the court document that establishes this fact.

In general, you do **not** need to submit documentation relating to traffic fines and incidents that did not involve an actual physical arrest if the penalty was only a fine of less than **\$500** or points on your driver's license. However, you must submit such documentation if the traffic incident resulted in criminal charges or involved alcohol, drugs, or injury to a person or property.



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If you are not able to obtain certified copies of any court disposition relating to **Items 9.A. - 9.D.**, please submit:

- A. An explanation of why the documents are not available, including (if possible) a certificate from the custodian of the documents explaining why the documents are not available;
- B. Any secondary evidence that shows the disposition of the case; or
- C. If secondary evidence is also not available, one or more written statements, signed under penalty of perjury under 28 U.S.C. section 1746, by someone who has personal knowledge of the disposition.

#### **10. Waiver of Inadmissibility**

If you are inadmissible to the United States based on one or more grounds of inadmissibility outlined in INA section 212(a), you are not eligible for CNMI Resident status unless you qualify for a waiver of inadmissibility. (See the **Additional Instructions if You are Inadmissible** section of these Instructions.)

#### **What Is the Filing Fee?**

There is no filing fee for Form I-955. However, you must file Form I-765 with all applicable fees in accordance with the instructions for Form I-765. There are no fee waivers for CNMI Resident status.

#### **Where To File?**

Please see our website at [www.uscis.gov/I-955](http://www.uscis.gov/I-955) or visit the USCIS Contact Center at [www.uscis.gov/contactcenter](http://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter) to connect with a USCIS representative for the most current information about where to file this application. The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish. For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: **1-800-767-1833**.

If you are in proceedings in Immigration Court (that is, if you have been served with Form I-221, Order to Show Cause and Notice of Hearing; Form I-122, Notice to Applicant for Admission Detained for Hearing Before an Immigration Judge; Form I-862, Notice to Appear; or Form I-863, Notice of Referral to Immigration Judge, that DHS filed with the Immigration Court), you may be required to file this application with the appropriate Immigration Court. Follow any special instructions given by the DHS attorney, the Immigration Court, or on our website.

#### **When to File?**

There is a limited period of time to file Form I-955. Follow the filing instructions on the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

#### **Additional Information Relevant to ALL applicants for CNMI Resident Status**

USCIS will not consider applications for CNMI Resident Status unless your Form I-955 is accompanied by Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, with all applicable fees. If you do not include Form I-765 with all applicable fees with your Form I-955, your entire submission will be rejected.

#### **Address Change**

An applicant who is not a U.S. citizen must notify USCIS of his or her new address within 10 days of moving from his or her previous residence. For information on filing a change of address, go to the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov/addresschange](http://www.uscis.gov/addresschange) or reach out to the USCIS Contact Center at [www.uscis.gov/contactcenter](http://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter) for help. The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish. For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: **1-800-767-1833**.

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If you are already in proceedings in Immigration Court, you must also notify the Immigration Court on EOIR Form 33/IC, Alien's Change of Address Form/Immigration Court, of any changes of address within five days of the change in address. The EOIR Form 33/IC is available on the EOIR website at [www.justice.gov/eoir/form-eoir-33-eoir-immigration-court-listing](http://www.justice.gov/eoir/form-eoir-33-eoir-immigration-court-listing).

**NOTE: Do not submit a change of address request to the USCIS Lockbox facilities because the Lockbox does not process change of address requests.**

## Processing Information

**Initial Processing.** Once USCIS accepts your application, we will check it for completeness. If you do not completely fill out this application, you will not establish a basis for your eligibility and USCIS may reject or deny your application.

**Requests for More Information.** USCIS may request that you provide more information or evidence to support your application. We may also request that you provide the originals of any copies you submit. If we request an original document from you, it will be returned to you after USCIS determines it no longer needs your original.

**Requests for Interview.** We may request that you appear at a USCIS office for an interview based on your application. At the time of any interview or other appearance at a USCIS office, we may require that you provide your biometrics to verify your identity and/or update background and security checks.

**Decision.** The decision on Form I-955 involves a determination of whether you have established eligibility for the immigration benefit you are seeking. USCIS will notify you of the decision in writing.

## Accommodations for Individuals With Disabilities and/or Impairments

USCIS is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities and/or impairments that will help them fully participate in USCIS programs and benefits.

Reasonable accommodations vary with each disability and/or impairment. They may involve modifications to practices or procedures. There are various types of reasonable accommodations that we may offer. Examples include but are not limited to:

1. If you are deaf or hard of hearing, USCIS may provide you with a sign-language interpreter at an interview or other immigration benefit-related appointment;
2. If you are blind or have low vision, USCIS may permit you to take a test orally rather than in writing; or
3. If you are unable to travel to a designated USCIS location for an interview, USCIS may visit you at your home or a hospital.

If you believe that you need USCIS to accommodate your disability and/or impairment, select "Yes" in **Part 9, Item Number 1**, and then all applicable boxes in **Items 2.a. - 2.c.** that describe the nature of your disabilities and/or impairments. Also, describe the types of accommodations you are requesting on the lines provided. If you are requesting a sign-language interpreter, indicate for which language. If you need extra space to complete this section, use the space provided in **Part 14. Additional Information**.

**NOTE:** All domestic USCIS facilities meet the "Standards for Accessible Design" of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), so you do not need to contact USCIS to request an accommodation for physical access to a domestic USCIS office. However, in **Part 9**, of this application, you can indicate whether you use a wheelchair. This will allow USCIS to better prepare for your visit.

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**NOTE:** USCIS also ensures that limited English proficient (LEP) individuals are provided meaningful access at an interview or other immigration benefit-related appointment, unless otherwise prohibited by law. LEP individuals may bring a qualified interpreter to the interview.

USCIS considers requests for reasonable accommodations on a case-by-case basis, and we will make our best efforts to reasonably accommodate your disabilities and/or impairments. USCIS will not exclude you from participating in USCIS programs or deny your application because of your disabilities and/or impairments. Requesting and/or receiving an accommodation will not affect your eligibility for an immigration benefit.

**For hearings before the Immigration Court:** Interpreters are provided, at the government's expense, to individuals whose comprehension of the English language is inadequate to fully understand and participate in removal proceedings. In general, the Immigration Court endeavors to accommodate the language needs of all respondents and witnesses. The Immigration Court will arrange for an interpreter both during the individual calendar hearing and, if necessary, the master calendar hearing. The Immigration Court is also committed to addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities and/or impairments. If your case is pending before the Immigration Court, you should notify the court of any such need before your first hearing with an immigration judge. The Immigration Court considers all requests to address such needs on a case-by-case basis.

### USCIS Forms and Information

To ensure you are using the latest version of this application, visit the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) where you can obtain the latest USCIS forms and immigration-related information. If you do not have internet access, you may call the USCIS Contact Center at **1-800-375-5283** and ask that we mail a form to you. The USCIS Contact Center provides information in English and Spanish. For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing) call: **1-800-767-1833**.

Please visit us at [www.uscis.gov/contactcenter](http://www.uscis.gov/contactcenter) to get basic information about immigration services and ask questions about a pending case. Through our digital self-help tools and live assistance, the USCIS Contact Center provides a pathway for you to get consistent, accurate information and answers to immigration case questions.

### Penalties

If you knowingly and willfully falsify or conceal a material fact or submit a false document with your Form I-955, we will deny your Form I-955 and may deny any other immigration benefit. In addition, you will face severe penalties provided by law and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

### USCIS Compliance Review and Monitoring

By signing this application, you have stated under penalty of perjury (28 U.S.C. section 1746) that all information and documentation submitted with this application are complete, true, and correct. You also authorize the release of any information from your records that USCIS may need to determine your eligibility for the immigration benefit you are seeking and consent to USCIS verifying such information.

DHS has the authority to verify any information you submit to establish eligibility for the immigration benefit you are seeking at any time. USCIS' legal authority to verify this information is in 8 U.S.C. sections 1103, 1155, and 1184, and 8 CFR parts 103, 204, 205, and 214. To ensure compliance with applicable laws and authorities, USCIS may verify information before or after your case is decided.

Agency verification methods may include, but are not limited to: review of public records and information; contact through written correspondence, the internet, fax, other electronic transmission, or telephone; unannounced physical site inspections of residences and locations of employment; and interviews. USCIS will use information obtained through verification to assess your compliance with the laws and to determine your eligibility for an immigration benefit.

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Subject to the restrictions under 8 CFR 103.2(b)(16), USCIS will provide you with an opportunity to address any adverse or derogatory information that may result from a USCIS compliance review, verification, or site visit after a formal decision is made on your case or after the agency has initiated an adverse action which may result in rescission or termination of CNMI Resident status.

### **DHS Privacy Notice**

**AUTHORITIES:** The information requested on this application, and the associated evidence, is collected under INA sections 1103 and 1184, and 8 CFR parts 103, 214, and 248.

**PURPOSE:** The primary purpose for providing the requested information on this application is to apply for CNMI Resident status. DHS uses the information you provide to grant or deny the immigration benefit you are seeking.

**DISCLOSURE:** The information you provide is voluntary. However, failure to provide the requested information, including your Social Security number (if applicable), and any requested evidence, may delay a final decision or result in denial of your application.

**ROUTINE USES:** DHS may, where allowable under relevant confidentiality provisions, share the information you provide on this application and any additional requested evidence with other Federal, state, local, and foreign government agencies and authorized organizations. DHS follows approved routine uses described in the associated published system of records notices [DHS/USCIS-001 - Alien File, Index, and National File Tracking System and DHS/USCIS-007 - Benefits Information System] and the published privacy impact assessments [DHS/USCIS/PIA-016a Computer Linked Application Information Management System and Associated Systems, DHS/USCIS/PIA-051 Case and Activity Management for International Operations, and DHS/USCIS/PIA-056 USCIS Electronic Immigration System] which you can find at [www.dhs.gov/privacy](http://www.dhs.gov/privacy). DHS may also share this information, as appropriate, for law enforcement purposes or in the interest of national security.

### **Paperwork Reduction Act**

The use of this application is considered an information collection that, ordinarily, would be subject to review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act procedures. Section 2, subsection E of the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act, Public Law 116-24, exempts this information collection from the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act. Accordingly, the application does not require an OMB control number.

### **Additional Instructions if You are Inadmissible**

Applicants ineligible for CNMI Resident status due to one or more inadmissibility grounds may be eligible to have their inadmissibility grounds waived. To request a waiver of grounds of inadmissibility, please provide the following information:

**NOTE: You may request a waiver by providing the information requested in these additional instructions. Do not file Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility. There is no fee required for this waiver request.**

#### **Reasons for Inadmissibility**

This section outlines requirements you must establish in order to have a particular ground of inadmissibility waived. Please read carefully through these additional instructions.

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**You Are Seeking a Waiver Under INA Section 212(g) of Health-Related Grounds of Inadmissibility Under INA Section 212(a)(1)**

**1. You Are Seeking a Waiver Under INA Section 212(g)(1) for Inadmissibility Due to a Communicable Disease of Public Health Significance**

Communicable diseases of public health significance are defined in 42 CFR 34.2(b) and include, but are not limited to:

- A. Class A tuberculosis condition (as defined by Health and Human Services (HHS) regulations);
- B. Chancroid;
- C. Gonorrhea;
- D. Granuloma inguinale;
- E. Lymphogranuloma venereum;
- F. Syphilis, infectious stage;
- G. Leprosy, infectious; or
- H. Any other communicable disease as determined by the U.S. Secretary of HHS and as defined at 42 CFR 34.2(b).

The waiver request may be approved if you are the spouse, parent, unmarried son or daughter; unmarried minor lawfully adopted child of a U.S. citizen, an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or of an alien who has been issued an immigrant visa, or if you are the fiancé(e) of a U.S. citizen or the fiancé(e)'s child.

**2. You are Seeking a Waiver Under INA Section 212(g)(2)(C) of the Vaccination Requirement**

In accordance with U.S. law, applicants must establish they were vaccinated against a broad range of vaccine-preventable diseases, unless waived. You can find a list of the required vaccines at <https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/exams/ti/civil/vaccination-civil-technical-instructions.html>. Generally, the vaccine-preventable diseases which require vaccination include:

- A. Mumps;
- B. Measles;
- C. Rubella;
- D. Polio;
- E. Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoids;
- F. Pertussis;
- G. Haemophilus influenzae type B;
- H. Hepatitis B; and
- I. Any other vaccine-preventable diseases recommended by the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices.

**The waiver request may be approved if:**

- A. One or more of the required vaccinations is not medically appropriate for you; or
- B. The vaccination requirement is against your religious beliefs or moral convictions.

**You must submit evidence in support of your waiver request. If you seek a waiver of the vaccination requirement because vaccinations are against your religious beliefs or moral convictions, you must submit evidence that:**

- A. You are opposed to vaccinations in any form;
- B. Your objection is based on religious beliefs or moral convictions; and
- C. Your belief or conviction is sincere.

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### 3. You are Seeking a Waiver Under INA Section 212(g)(3) for Inadmissibility Due to Physical or Mental Disorder and Associated Harmful Behavior

You may seek a waiver of inadmissibility based on a physical or mental disorder with associated harmful behavior. Harmful behavior is behavior that poses, may pose, or has posed a threat to the property, safety, or welfare of you or others. You may also seek a waiver to overcome inadmissibility based on a history of a physical or mental disorder with behavior associated with the disorder that has posed a threat to the property, safety, or welfare of you or others, and that is likely to recur or to lead to other harmful behavior.

**In addition to the other information requested elsewhere in the Instructions, you must submit a complete medical history and a report that addresses the following:**

- A. Your physical or mental disorder and the behavior associated with the disorder that poses, has posed, or may pose in the future a threat to your property, safety, or welfare or the property, safety, or welfare of others. The report should also provide details of any hospitalization, institutional care, or any other treatment you may have received in connection with your disorder;
- B. Findings regarding your current physical condition, including, if applicable, reports of chest X-rays and a serologic test, if you are 15 years of age or older, and other pertinent diagnostic tests;
- C. Findings regarding the mental or physical disorder, including a detailed prognosis that should specify, based on a reasonable degree of medical certainty, the possibility that the harmful behavior is likely to recur or that other harmful behavior associated with the disorder is likely to occur; and
- D. A recommendation concerning treatment that is reasonably available in the United States and that is reasonably expected to significantly reduce the likelihood that the physical or mental disorder will result in harmful behavior in the future.

### You Are Seeking a Waiver Under INA Section 212(h) or (i) for Certain Criminal Grounds of Inadmissibility Under INA Section 212(a)(2) or for Immigration Fraud or Misrepresentation Under INA Section 212(a)(6)(C)

#### 1. Criminal Grounds

If you are found inadmissible based on criminal grounds, you may seek a waiver of inadmissibility for the following:

- A. A crime involving moral turpitude (CIMT);  
**NOTE:** You are not inadmissible for having committed a CIMT, and do not need to seek a waiver if the crime was a purely political offense; if the crime was a CIMT, but you committed only one CIMT, were under 18 years of age at the time you committed the crime and were released from any confinement to a prison or correctional institution imposed for the crime more than 5 years before application; or if the crime was a CIMT, but you committed only one CIMT, for which the maximum possible sentence is 1 year or less of imprisonment, and the actual sentence you received was 6 months or less;
- B. A controlled substance violation of the laws and regulations of any country or U.S. state related to a single offense of simple possession of 30 grams or less of marijuana;
- C. Two or more convictions, other than purely political ones, for which the sentences to confinement were a total of five years or more;
- D. Prostitution;
- E. Unlawful commercialized vice whether or not related to prostitution; and
- F. Certain aliens involved in serious criminal activity who have asserted immunity from prosecution.

**For this waiver, you must establish one of the following:**

- A. You are inadmissible only because of your participation in prostitution, including having procured others for prostitution or having received the proceeds of prostitution, but you have been rehabilitated and your admission to the United States will not be contrary to the national welfare, safety, or security;

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- B. At least 15 years have passed since the activity or event that makes you inadmissible, you have been rehabilitated, and your admission to the United States will not be contrary to the national welfare, safety, or security; or
  - C. Your qualifying U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident relative (spouse, son, daughter, or parent) would experience extreme hardship if you were denied admission.

For information about how you can establish hardship, see the **What Evidence Must You Submit if You Are Inadmissible** section of these Instructions.

**NOTE:** If you are convicted of a violent or dangerous crime, the agency adjudicating your application may not approve the waiver unless there is an extraordinary circumstance, such as one involving national security or foreign policy considerations, or if denying your admission would cause exceptional and extremely unusual hardship. Even if that standard is met, the agency adjudicating your application may still deny your request for a waiver as a matter of discretion. See 8 CFR 212.7(d).

**NOTE:** According to INA section 212(h), a waiver cannot be granted if you have been convicted of (or admitted committing acts that constitute) murder or criminal acts involving torture, or an attempt or conspiracy to commit murder or a criminal act involving torture.

## 2. Immigration Fraud or Misrepresentation

You may request a waiver if you are inadmissible because you sought to procure an immigration benefit by fraud or misrepresented a material fact (INA section 212(a)(6)(C)(i)).

**NOTE:** If you are inadmissible based on a false claim to be a U.S. citizen (INA section 212(a)(6)(C)(ii)), and if you made your false claim on or after September 30, 1996, a waiver under INA section 212(i) is not available to you.

- A. Your qualifying U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident relative (spouse or parent) would experience extreme hardship if you were denied admission. For information about how you can establish hardship, see the **What Evidence Must You Submit If You Are Inadmissible** section of these Instructions.

## You Are Seeking a Waiver Under INA Section 212(a)(3)(D)(iv) for Inadmissibility Because of Immigrant Membership in a Totalitarian Party Under INA Section 212(a)(3)(D)(i)

If you are inadmissible for having been a member of or affiliated with the Communist or any other totalitarian party (or subdivision or affiliate thereof), whether domestic or foreign, you may apply for a waiver under INA section 212(a)(3)(D)(iv) if you are the parent, spouse, son, daughter, brother, or sister of a U.S. citizen; a spouse, son, or daughter of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence; or if you are the K-1 fiancé(e) of a U.S. citizen. The waiver may be granted for humanitarian purposes, to assure family unity, or when it is otherwise in the public interest, if you are not a threat to the security of the United States.

## You Are Seeking a Waiver of Inadmissibility Under INA Section 212(a)(9)(B)(v) of the 3-Year or 10-Year Unlawful Presence

If you are inadmissible because you were previously unlawfully present in the United States either for longer than 180 days, but less than 1 year (resulting in a 3-year bar), or 1 year or more (resulting in a 10-year bar), you may request a waiver.

To establish eligibility, you must demonstrate your qualifying U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident relative (spouse or parent) would experience extreme hardship if you were denied admission.

For information about how you can establish extreme hardship, see the **What Evidence Must You Submit if You Are Inadmissible** section of these Instructions.

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## What Evidence Must You Submit if You Are Inadmissible?

**Your Inadmissibility Statement.** Provide a statement that explains the acts, convictions, and/or conditions you believe make you inadmissible to the United States. Include dates for all convictions and certified court documents, including judgments that show the disposition of any criminal arrests and/or convictions.

**Information About Your Qualifying Relatives.** Provide information about your qualifying relative through whom you are claiming eligibility for a waiver. Pay close attention to which qualifying family relationship you must establish when applying for a waiver. The different waivers require different qualifying relationships. The required relationship is discussed in the **Reasons for Inadmissibility** section of these Instructions.

**Relative's Full Name.** Provide the full name of your qualifying relative.

**Physical Address and Contact Information.** Provide the physical address where your qualifying relative currently resides in the spaces provided. Include his or her current daytime telephone number and email address (if any).

**Other Information.** Indicate your relationship to your qualifying relative through whom you are claiming eligibility for a waiver (for example, U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (LPR) spouse, parent, or child). Also provide your relative's current immigration status, A-Number (if any), and date of birth in the mm/dd/yyyy format. If you have additional qualifying relatives through whom you claim eligibility, provide your other qualifying relative's name, relationship to you, current immigration status, A-Number (if any), and date of birth in the mm/dd/yyyy format.

**Statement from Applicant (Extreme Hardship).** Explain the extreme hardship your qualifying relative (for example, U.S. citizen or LPR spouse, parent, or child) would experience if you were refused admission to the United States.

### Information About Your Other Relatives with Ties to the United States

**Relative's Full Name.** Provide the full name of your relative.

**Physical Address and Contact Information.** Provide the physical address where your relative currently resides in the spaces provided. Include his or her current daytime telephone number and email address (if any).

**Other Information.** Indicate your relationship to your other relatives in the United States and provide his or her current immigration status, A-number (if any), and date of birth in the mm/dd/yyyy format.

**Statement from Applicant (Discretion).** Explain why you believe your waiver request should be approved as a matter of discretion, if applicable, and why the favorable factors in your case should outweigh the unfavorable factors.

In all cases, you must show that the approval of your waiver request is warranted as a matter of discretion, with the favorable factors outweighing the unfavorable factors in your case. Include a statement explaining why you believe your waiver request should be approved as a matter of discretion, with the favorable factors outweighing the unfavorable factors in your case.

Depending on the type of waiver you seek, this information and evidence may include, but is not limited to:

1. Affidavits from you or other individuals;
2. Police reports from any country you lived in;
3. Complete court records about any conviction or charge from any country;
4. If applicable, evidence of rehabilitation;
5. Any evidence you may wish to submit to establish that your admission to the United States would not be against the national welfare, public safety, or national security;
6. Medical reports; or



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7. If you are applying for a waiver from a ground of inadmissibility that requires a showing of extreme hardship and you are the spouse, parent, son, or daughter of a U.S. citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, you must submit evidence establishing the family relationship (such as a birth certificate or marriage certificate, etc.) and include evidence that shows your denial of admission would result in **extreme hardship** to your qualifying relative (the U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse, parent, child). Pay close attention to the qualifying relationship that you have to establish. While the relationships appear to be similar, the various waiver provisions contain different qualifying family relationships. The requirements that need to be established for each waiver are listed in **Reasons for Inadmissibility**. Include a statement explaining why your denial of admission would result in extreme hardship to your qualifying relative.