



I Am a Refugee

D1

or Asylee...



How Do I...Help My Relative Get Refugee or Asylee Status in the United States?



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

M-581 (12/05)

If you are currently in refugee or asylee status, you may be able to help your relative get asylee or refugee status. You can start the process by filing a **Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition**. The I-730 is available on our website at uscis.gov.

Who are the relatives that I may file for?

If you entered the United States (U.S.) as a refugee or were granted asylum less than two years ago, you may file an I-730 for the following relatives:

- Husband or wife
- Unmarried children under age 21

An I-730 petition must be filed within two years of entering as a refugee or being granted asylum. If it has been longer than two years since you entered as a refugee or were granted asylum, you may want to get legal advice to determine if there are any other immigration benefits available to your relative.

What happens after I file for my relative?

After you file the I-730 petition, we will mail you a receipt so you know we received it for processing. If your petition is incomplete, we may have to reject it, or ask you for more evidence or information, which will delay processing. Please send all required information the first time to avoid delay. If your relative is in the U.S., we may require him or her to appear for an interview with an immigration officer.

We will notify you when we make a decision regarding your case. If we approve your petition, and your relative is inside the U.S., we will send you an approval notice, notifying you that your relative is a refugee or asylee and what steps to take next.

If we approve your petition and your relative is outside the U.S., we will send you an approval notice and forward your petition to the U.S. Embassy/Consulate nearest your relative. The U.S. Embassy/Consulate will notify your relative when and where to appear, inviting him or her to apply for a visa to enter the U.S.

After I file, how long will it take before my relative's petition can be approved?

The time it takes to process and approve your relative's petition depends on a number of factors. Once you file, we will send you a receipt. You can check and monitor current processing times on our website.

If I marry after I become a refugee or asylee, can I file an I-730 for my husband or wife?

You cannot file an I-730 for your husband or wife if you marry after you become a refugee or asylee. However, you may want to get legal advice to determine if there are any other immigration benefits available to your spouse.

Can I help any other relatives?

The law limits eligibility to the relatives listed on this Fact Sheet.

If my relative is granted refugee or asylee status, can he or she file the I-730 for another family member?

If your relative was granted refugee or asylee status based on his/her relationship to you, he/she cannot file a Form I-730 for other family members.



Key Information

Key forms referenced in this Fact Sheet	Form #
Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition	I-730

USCIS

- **On the Internet at: uscis.gov**

For more copies of this Fact Sheet, or information about other citizenship and immigration services, visit our website. You can also download forms, e-file some applications, check the status of an application, and more. It's a great place to start! If you don't have Internet access at home or work, try your library. If you can't find what you need, call customer service.

- **Customer Service: 1-800-375-5283**

- Hearing Impaired TDD Customer Service: 1-800-767-1833

Disclaimer: This Fact Sheet is a basic guide to help you become generally familiar with our rules and procedures. For more information, or the law and regulations, see our website. Immigration law can be complex, and it is impossible to describe every aspect of every process. You may wish to be represented by a licensed attorney or by a nonprofit agency accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Other U.S. Government Services—click or call

In general	www.firstgov.gov	1-800-333-4636
U.S. Department of State	www.state.gov	1-202-647-6575