



I Am a Refugee

D4

or Asylee...



How Do I...Get a Refugee Travel Document?



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

M-611 (12/05)

A person with refugee or asylum status who wishes to travel outside the United States (U.S.) requires a Refugee Travel Document in order to return to the U.S. and maintain his/her status.

In most cases, a refugee or asylee may use the Refugee Travel Document for travel purposes in place of a passport. The Refugee Travel Document is similar in appearance to a U.S. passport.

How do I apply for a Refugee Travel Document?

To apply for a Refugee Travel Document file **Form I-131, Application for Refugee Travel Document**. Follow the instructions on the form carefully. For further information, or to download the form, please visit our website or call customer service.

How long is a Refugee Travel Document valid?

A refugee travel document is valid for one year.

Can I travel back to the country where I experienced past persecution or claim a fear of future persecution?

Yes. However, if you have been granted asylum, you should be aware that your grant of asylum may be terminated if you are no longer eligible for asylum due to a fundamental change in circumstances. Similarly, your asylum status may be terminated if there was fraud in your application such that you were not eligible for asylum. Therefore, if your travel suggests that you no longer need asylum in the U.S., you should be prepared to explain how you were able to return to the country from which you fled.

If you have been admitted as a refugee, your status may be terminated if the U.S. Government determines that you were not, in fact, a refugee at the time you were admitted to the U.S. as a refugee. As a result, if your travel patterns indicate that you did not experience past persecution, that you did not have a well-founded fear of persecution on account of a protected ground, or that you persecuted others, you may need to explain your travel to that country to avoid losing your refugee status.

Key Information

| Key forms referenced in this Fact Sheet | Form # |
|---|--------|
| Application for Refugee Travel Document | I-131 |

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

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

