Part 4: Benefit Request Type & Eligibility

3.3 Benefit Request Type

In this section, you must indicate what benefit you are seeking.

If you have family members with you in the United States, you as the principal applicant will be asked to provide information about them as well.

NOTE: Any family members wishing to file a separate benefit request must first establish their own account in USCIS ELIS. You **cannot** use another person's USCIS ELIS account, even if that person is related to you.

If you are assisting a family member with completing their benefit request:

- The family member must have his or her own USCIS ELIS account, and
- You must enter information about yourself in the section for "Preparers" during the Online Setup Assistant process.

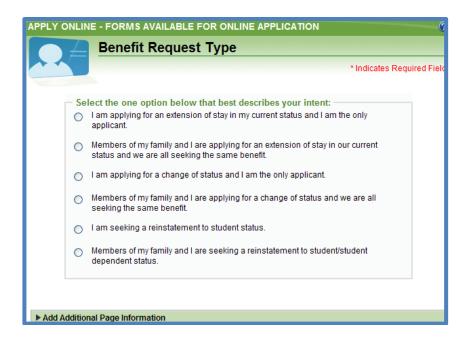
Only the account holder can e-sign his or her application, **except** in cases involving:

- A parent or legal guardian of an individual under the age of 14, or
- An individual who is physically incapacitated or developmentally disabled.

For cases involving the above-mentioned exceptions, you must create an account for the child or disabled person **in their name** and then complete a benefit request for them. You will be required to provide documentation to establish that you are the legal guardian or parent, and you must complete the "Preparer" section of the request before you e-sign on their behalf.

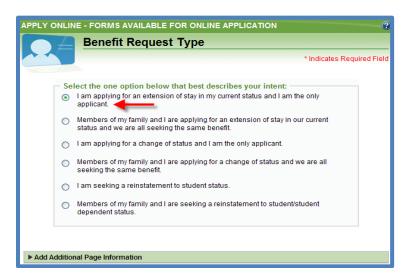
3.3.1 Benefit Request Type

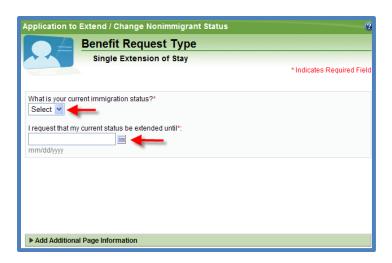
Select the type of benefit you are requesting.



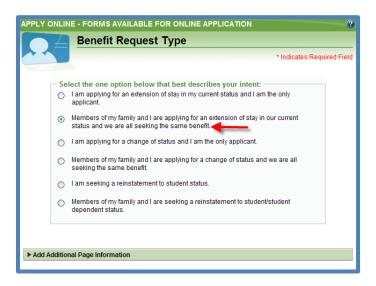
Extension of Stay

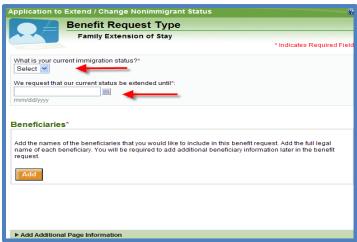
 If you are filing your benefit request only for yourself, provide your current immigration status and the date to which you would like to extend your status. Generally, the date to which you can extend your status will be determined by your nonimmigrant visa status and how long you have already been in the United States.



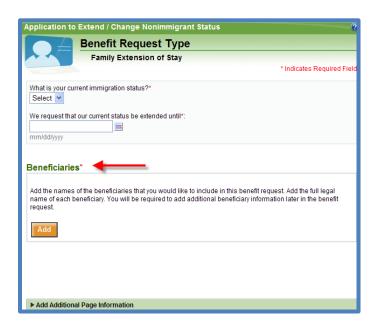


2. If you are filing your benefit request with family members who are included in your request, provide **your** current immigration status and the date to which you would like to extend to your stay.



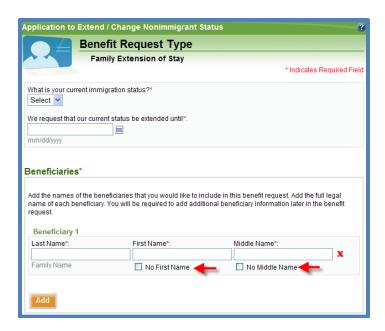


- 3. If you are currently in B-2 (visitor for pleasure) nonimmigrant status and you are seeking an extension of stay, you must submit documentation showing that either you are able to pay for your expenses or someone else is able to support you while you are in the United States.
- 4. You must provide the full legal names for each family member applicant/beneficiary included in your benefit request.



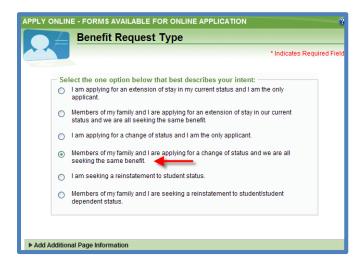


5. If your family member has no first name, select "No first name." If your family member has no middle name, select "No middle name."

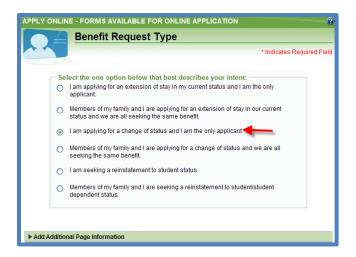


Change of Nonimmigrant Status

1. All members of your family must currently be seeking a change of nonimmigrant status to the same nonimmigrant status that you are seeking.



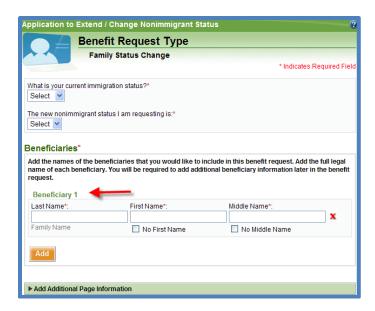
2. If you are filing your request individually, select the category for your current nonimmigrant status (for example, B-1) and then select the new nonimmigrant status to which you want to change.



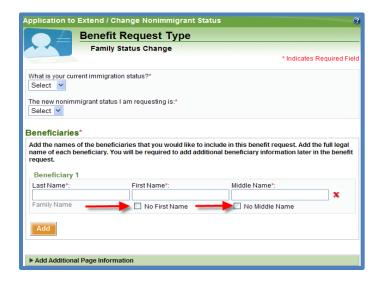
- 3. If you are in B-2 (visitor for pleasure) status and seek to change status to F-1 (academic student) or M-1 (vocational student), you must submit documentation showing that you or someone else can pay for your studies and support while you are in the United States.
- 4. If you are filing your request with family members who are in the United States with you, select the category for **your** current immigrant status (not the family member's) and the new nonimmigrant status to which you and your family want to change.



5. You must provide the full legal names for each family member applicant/beneficiary included in your benefit request.

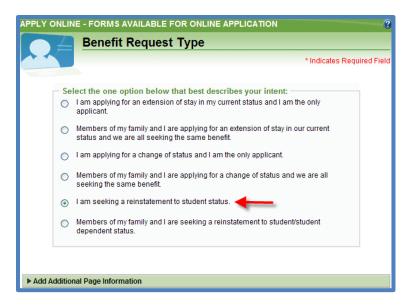


6. If your family member has no first name, select "No first name." If your family member has no middle name, select "No middle name."



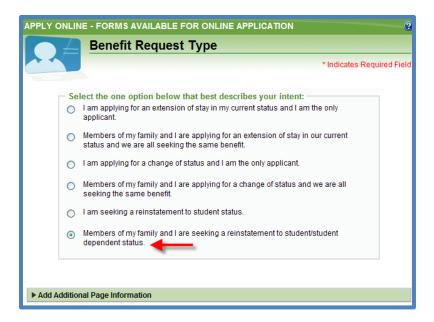
Reinstatement of Student Status

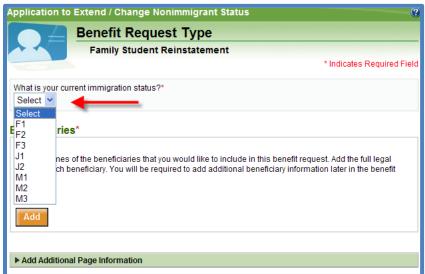
 If you are filing your request individually, provide the nonimmigrant status you held before you became out of status and any documentation (or explanation of circumstances) to establish why reinstatement is warranted.



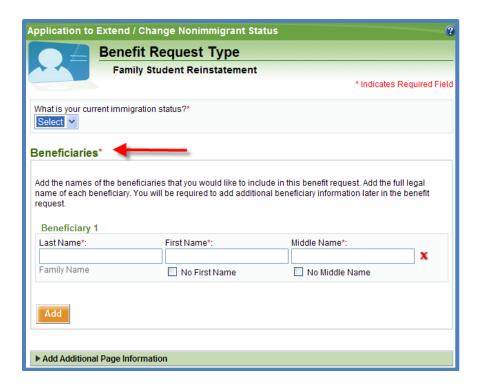


2. If you are filing your request with family members who are included in your benefit request, provide **your** current nonimmigrant status.

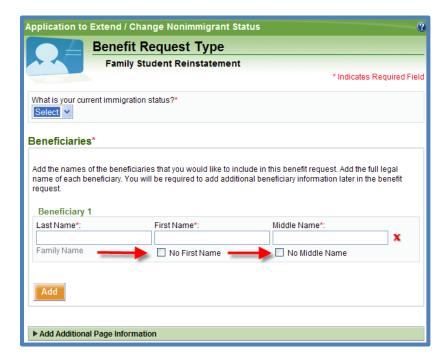




3. You must provide the full legal names for each family member applicant/beneficiary included in your benefit request.



4. If your family member has no first name, select "No first name." If your family member has no middle name, select "No middle name."



3.3.2 Eligibility Information: General Instructions

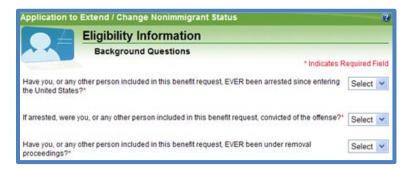
In this section, you are asked questions addressing your eligibility for the benefit you are requesting. Respond accurately to all questions and provide the requested information. For certain nonimmigrant categories, there are additional eligibility requirements that must be met before you can file a benefit request.

J Exchange Visitors Subject to the 2-Year Foreign Residence Requirement

- Some J-1 and J-2 exchange visitors are subject to the 2-year foreign residence requirement found in Section 212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended. This obligation requires the J-1 exchange visitor applicants and, in some cases, their J-2 dependents to return to their home country for 2 years at the end of the J-1 program.
- 2. The J visa issued by the U.S. Department of State and placed in your passport, in most instances, will indicate whether or not you or your dependents are subject to the 2-year foreign residence requirement.
- 3. If you are subject to the 2-year foreign residence requirement under INA 212(e), you cannot change your nonimmigrant status until the 2-year requirement is either fulfilled or waived prior to you filing a request to change nonimmigrant status.

Criminal History

You must respond "Yes" to pertinent questions in this section if you have been arrested, detained, fingerprinted or convicted in connection with any criminal activity—even if no charges were ever filed after your arrest or if your conviction was expunged.



If you answer "Yes" to any of these eligibility questions, you must submit the following documents with your benefit request. They are listed here under the heading for the category you may fit into.

No Charges Filed

If you have ever been arrested or detained by any law enforcement officer for any reason but charges were **NOT** filed, submit an original official statement by the arresting agency or applicable court confirming that no charges were filed. If you cannot obtain an official statement, explain why in the additional space provided.

Charges Filed

If you have ever been arrested or detained by any law enforcement officer for any reason, and charges were filed, submit:

 An original or court-certified copy of the complete arrest record; and • A certified copy of the final court disposition for each incident (dismissal order, conviction record or acquittal order).

The arrest record(s) must be a complete official record from the law enforcement agency that made the arrest. The record(s) should show the name of the law enforcement agency that made the arrest, who was arrested, the date of the arrest, and the reason for the arrest (the charge[s] or citation[s] made by the law enforcement agency).

Convictions and Court Dispositions

If charges were filed against you without an arrest, you were indicted, or you have ever been convicted or placed in an alternative sentencing program or rehabilitative program (such as a drug-treatment or community-service program), submit:

- An original or court-certified copy of the sentencing record for each incident; and
- Evidence that you completed your sentence.

All dispositions must be from the court where your case was tried. If the case has not yet been to trial, submit official notification from the court of the pending court date. If any motions to dismiss were filed, provide the entire court proceedings (not just the disposition of the motion). The court dispositions must reflect the date of the offense, the charge, and the final disposition by the court.

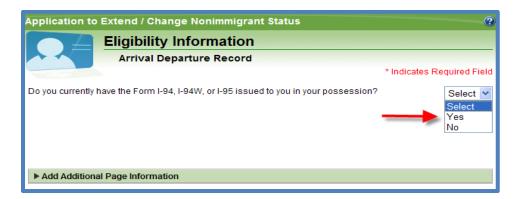
Inability to Submit Court Documents

If you are unable to submit court documents, or if the case was dismissed prior to going to trial, obtain an original letter from the court or the district attorney's office of the city or municipality where the arrest or conviction occurred. This letter must indicate the date of the offense, the charge, and the final disposition by the court.

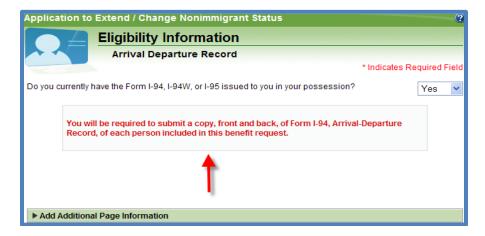
3.3.3 Eligibility Information: Specific Instructions

Account Information

1. If you were issued a Form I-94, I-94W or I-95 and still have it in your possession, select "Yes."

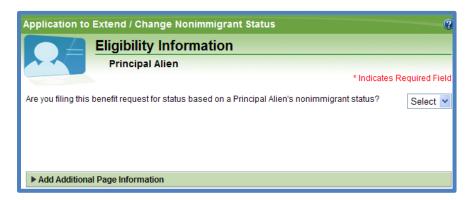


2. You must submit a scanned copy of the Form I-94, I-94W or I-95 as evidence of your status when you file this benefit request.

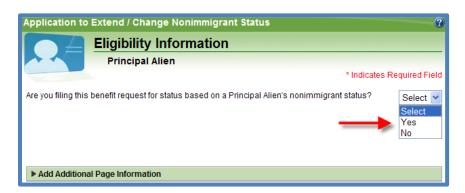


Principal Alien

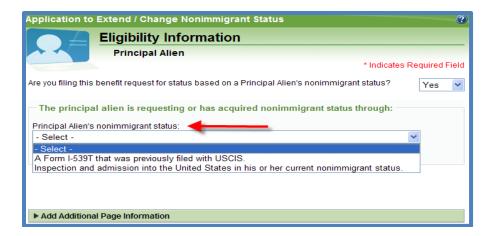
A principal alien is the person who applies for an immigrant status and from whom another person may derive lawful status under immigration law or regulations (usually spouses and minor unmarried children).



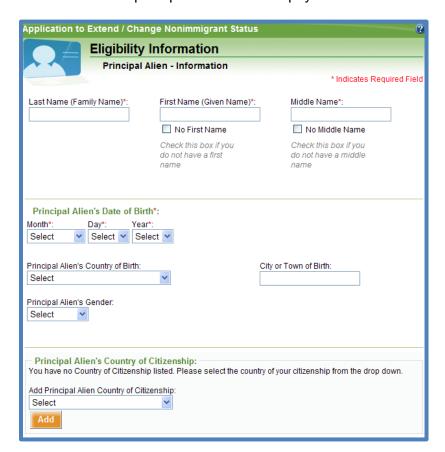
1. If you are filing a request for status based on a principal alien's status, select "Yes."

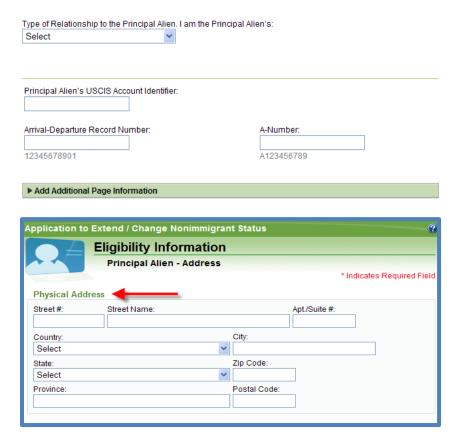


Indicate the status the principal alien currently has or, if he or she has a pending request with USCIS, the status the principal alien will receive if approved.



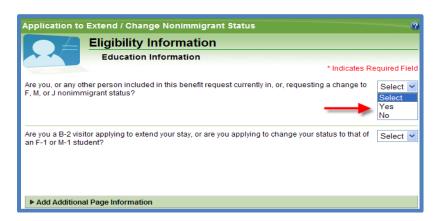
3. Provide the principal alien's current physical address.



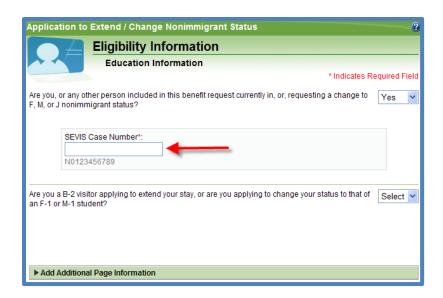


Education Information

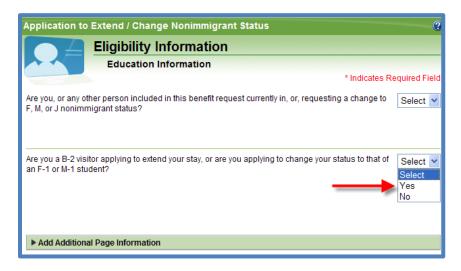
1. If you or any family member are seeking to change status to, or from, F (academic student), M (vocational student), or J (exchange visitor), select "Yes" to indicate that you are seeking a change in status.



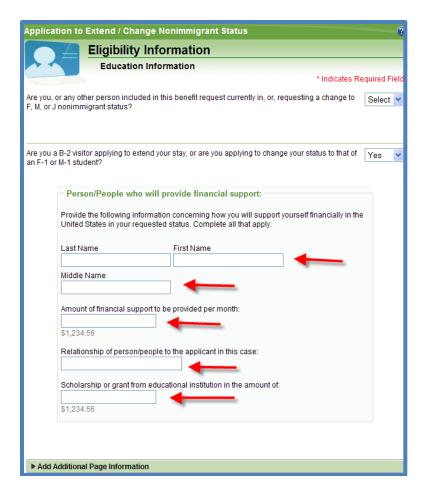
2. Provide your SEVIS registration number, which appears on your approved I-20A-B. (Example: N123456789)



3. If you or any accompanying family members are currently in B-2 (visitor for pleasure) status and seeking to change status to either F-1 (academic student), M-1 (vocational student) or J-1 (exchange visitor), select "Yes" to indicate that you are seeking a change in status.

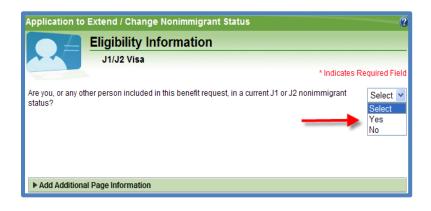


4. Provide the information requested to establish how you will support yourself and any accompanying family members financially while in the United States.



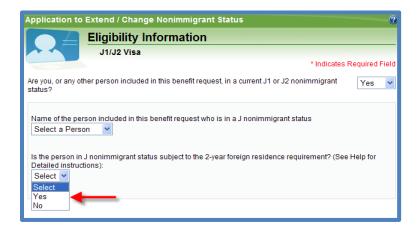
J1/J2 Exchange Visitor Visa

1. Provide the name of the person who is in J1 or J2 status.



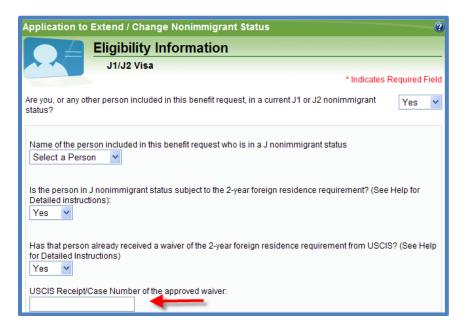


2. If the person who is currently in J1 or J2 status is subject to the 2-year home residence requirement, select "Yes."



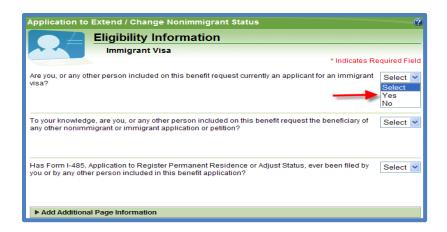
3. If the person who is currently in J1 or J2 status has received a waiver of the 2-year home residence requirement, select "Yes."



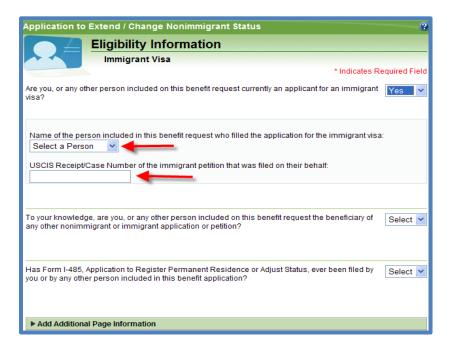


Immigrant Visa

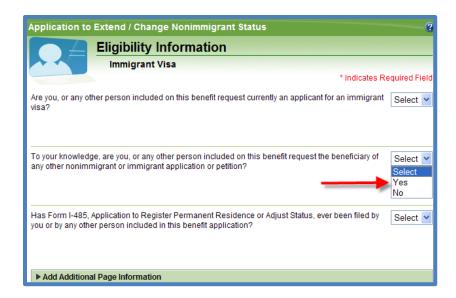
1. If you or any family members currently have an application for an immigrant visa pending on your or their behalf with a U.S. consulate or embassy outside the United States, select "Yes."



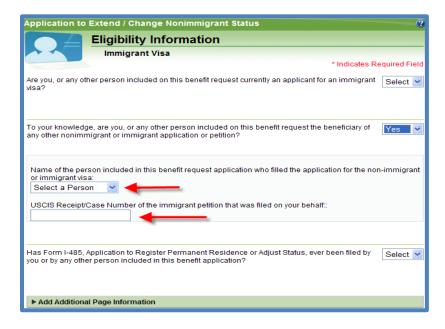
2. Provide the name of the person who filed the immigrant visa as well as the USCIS receipt number (example: EAC-123456789) for the associated immigrant visa petition filing.



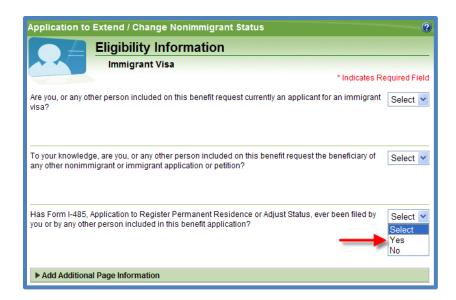
 If you or any accompanying family members are currently the beneficiary of a visa petition, or the beneficiary of an applicant for a nonimmigrant or immigrant visa, select "Yes."



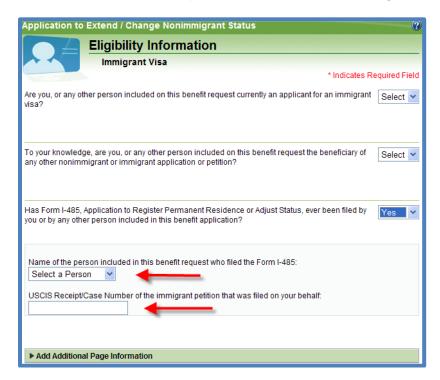
 Provide the name of the person or organization who filed the immigrant visa petition and the USCIS receipt number (example: EAC-123456789) for the filing.



5. If you or any accompanying family member are currently waiting for a decision from USCIS on an **application to adjust status to lawful permanent residence**, select "Yes."

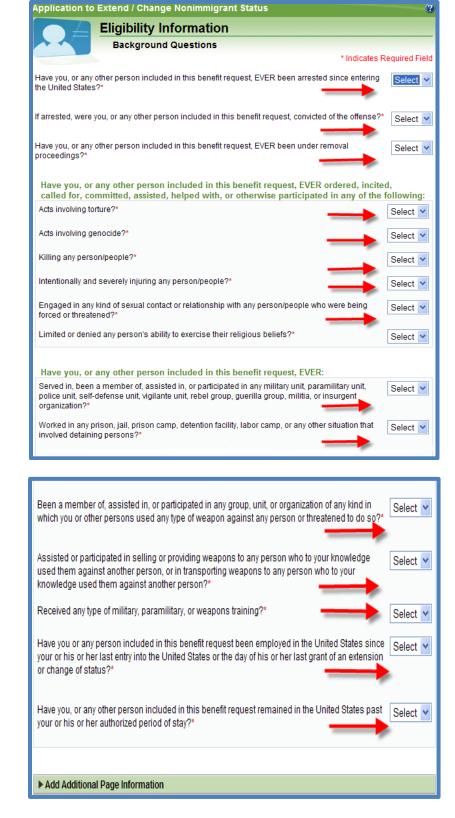


6. Provide the name of the person who filed the application for adjustment of status as well as the USCIS receipt number (example: EAC-123456789) or "A" number (example: A099999999) for the filing.



Background Questions

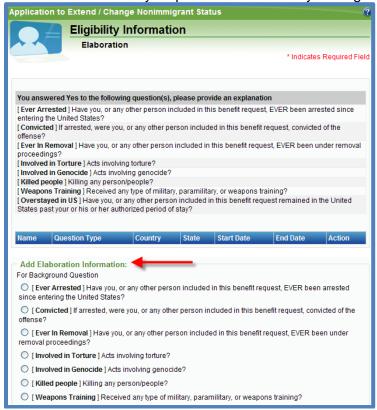
1. You must answer all the questions related to your eligibility for the benefit request and your eligibility for this benefit request.

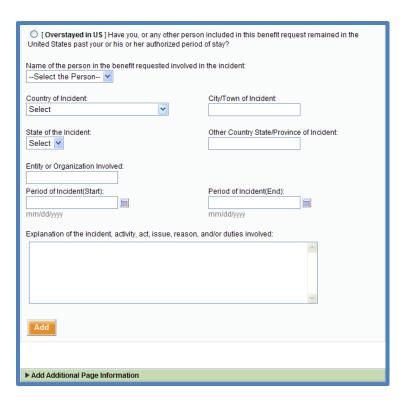


2. You also must answer "Yes" if any family member has been arrested or convicted.

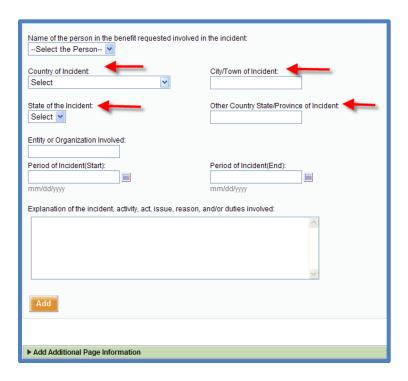
Explanation

 If you answered "Yes" to any question in the "Background Questions" section, you must provide an explanation for and information about the incident or situation. You also should describe any extenuating circumstances that may help USCIS determine your eligibility.

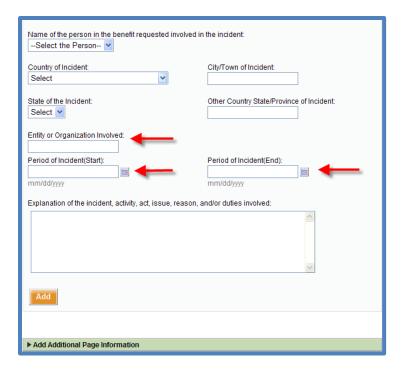




2. Provide the city or town, as well as the state, province and country (if not in the United States), where you were arrested, detained, and/or convicted.



3. Provide the name of the law enforcement agency involved in the incident and the date of the incident.



- 4. If you or a family member were convicted, provide the name of the court where the conviction occurred.
- 5. You **must** provide a copy of all arrest, conviction and court disposition records.