

STRATEGIC EXECUTIVE COMPENDIUM

THE U.S. IMMIGRATION ROADMAP



*An Authoritative, Plain-English Navigation System for Visas,
Permanent Residency, Humanitarian Relief, and Citizenship*



JURISDICTIONS

USCIS • DOS • EOIR • CBP

PATHWAYS

Family • Work • Asylum • Relief

VERIFICATION

2026 Fee Schedules &
Backlogs

Before you begin

Please read before using this guide. This document is general educational information only. It is **not legal advice**, and using it does not create any attorney/client or advisor/client relationship of any kind with PapersAndPathways or its authors. We are not attorneys, accredited representatives, or registered migration agents, and we do not review, evaluate, or advise on individual immigration cases.

U.S. immigration law is complex, changes often — sometimes overnight, by executive action or court order — and depends heavily on your individual facts: nationality, family situation, immigration and criminal history, the specific pathway, and more. Nothing in this guide should be relied on to make a final decision about your case, and no fee, deadline, or wait time quoted here should be treated as current without checking the live official source it's cited to.

Several fast-moving topics in this guide — DACA's status, Temporary Protected Status by country, a contested new \$100,000 H-1B fee, a proposed naturalization fee increase, and the exact fee structure for asylum applications — are genuinely unsettled or actively litigated as of this writing (September 2026). We tell you exactly what we found, when we found it, and where to check it live, rather than pretending it's settled. That's deliberate, not an oversight — see each flagged section.

Before you file anything or make any decision that affects your immigration status, **verify current rules on the relevant official government website** (linked throughout) and, wherever possible, **consult a licensed immigration attorney or a DOJ-recognized accredited representative**. See "Directory of real help" and "Watch out for scams" near the end of this guide — both exist because this space attracts fraud that specifically targets people at exactly this research stage.

If you have received a Notice to Appear or are already in removal proceedings, do not treat this guide as your action plan — go directly to Chapter 5 and then contact a licensed immigration attorney or accredited representative immediately. Immigration court deadlines are strict, and missing one can result in an automatic deportation order issued in your absence.

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