



ILSAA
IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES
FOR AFGHAN ARRIVALS

Contact us:
ilsaainfo@refugees.org
833-286-0864

What Afghan Minors and Their Caregivers Need to Know

Do you teach, coach, know, or care for an Afghan minor? Please encourage them to keep their status up to date and, if applicable, to update their address with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

Keeping parole up to date

If you are from Afghanistan and were under 18 when you were paroled into the United States with an OAR or PAR class of admission, you should keep your parole up to date. If you are currently over 18 years old but were 18 or younger when you were paroled into the United States, you are eligible for benefits while your parole is active.

How to check your parole status

Check the date of your parole expiration on your Form I-94 by visiting the U.S. [Customs and Border Protection's \(CBP\) Form I-94 website](#) to view and print a copy of your Form I-94. To access it, you will need to enter your first and last name, date of birth, document number or A-number (including the letter A), and your country of citizenship. CBP has instructions on how to complete this step in [English \(PDF\)](#), [Dari \(PDF\)](#), and [Pashto \(PDF\)](#).

Parole extensions

Parole may be automatically extended on a case-by-case basis. For example, minors under age 14 may be granted automatic extensions. Also, if you've filed for asylum or a green card since receiving your original parole, your parole may be extended while your application is pending. If you aren't sure about your status, checking the I-94 form online is the best way to know for sure.

Asylum and green card applications

Afghan nationals aged 14-18 years who wish to extend their initial parole may have options. If you are eligible, you can file [Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal](#), or [Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status](#), before your initial parole period expires. Your parole will be automatically extended while your application is pending.

Applying for re-parole

Afghan minors who have not filed for asylum or permanent residence can file [Form I-131, Application for Travel Documents, Parole Documents, and Arrival/Departure Records](#) to request a new period of parole or re-parole. There is no application fee. Although the form may be submitted to USCIS by mail, you're encouraged to file it through an online account.

- Starting 10/11/24 you must use the new edition of form I-131 (06/17/24 edition). The previous version will no longer be accepted by USCIS.
- Each person must apply for re-parole individually, not as part of another person's application.

Before applying for re-parole online, please complete the following steps:

1. If you don't already have one, obtain an email address. Anyone can create a free email address using gmail.com or another free email service.
2. Create a free myUSCIS account by following the instructions on the USCIS webpage, "[How to Create a USCIS Account](#)". Each person should have their own USCIS account, even babies and young children.
3. Follow the instructions available online at [Re-Parole Process for Certain Afghans | USCIS](#).



More information for Afghan minors

Change of address: When you move, you will need to update your address with USCIS within 10 days. This will help avoid issues with your immigration case. Learn how to update your address with USCIS by accessing ILSAA's [URGENT! Update Your Address with USCIS](#) fact sheet.

Family reunification: Afghan minors may be eligible for family reunification services through the Department of State or USCIS. Visit the [Department of State's Family Reunification for Afghans](#) webpage and USCIS' [Information for Afghan Nationals](#) webpage to learn more.

Additional benefits: Afghan minors may be eligible for food stamps, English language classes, medical assistance, and more. You can find out more by visiting the Office of Refugee Resettlement's (ORR) [website](#) and accessing their [fact sheet](#). Individual states also offer benefits; learn more by visiting [ORR's Key State Contacts page](#).

Guardianship/custody: If you are caring for an Afghan minor but are not their parent or legal guardian, you may need to take legal steps to support their needs in America. For example, if the minor in your care was initially listed as your child on an immigration document, it's important to get legal help to get it corrected so the minor can qualify for the appropriate assistance and benefits. Access ILSAA's [Are You Caring for an Afghan Child but Are Not Their Legal Parent?](#) fact sheet to learn more.

Questions?

If you have questions or need more information, please visit ILSAA's [website](#) for additional resources. You can

contact your [state refugee coordinator's office](#) or consult our [list of available resources](#) for legal help.

Resource List

Administration for Children and Families (ACF), ORR:

- *ACF's ORR Benefits for Afghan Youth in the U.S. Living with Non-Parental Caregivers.* <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/benefits-for-afghan-minors-fact-sheet.pdf>.
- *An Office of the Administration for Children & Families.* <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/orr>.

ILSAA:

- *Are You Caring for an Afghan Child but Are Not Their Legal Parent?* https://ilsaa.acf.hhs.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Guardianship_One_Pager_English.pdf.
- *URGENT! Update Your Address with USCIS.* https://ilsaa.acf.hhs.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Change-of-Address-Instructions_English_508C.pdf
- *Immigration Legal Services for Afghan Arrivals.* <https://ilsaa.acf.hhs.gov>.

USCIS:

- *Information for Afghan Nationals.* uscis.gov/allieswelcome.
- *How to Create a USCIS Online Account.* uscis.gov/file-online/how-to-create-a-uscis-online-account.
- *I-131, Application for Travel Document.* uscis.gov/i-131.
- *Re-Parole Process for Certain Afghans.* uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghan-nationals/re-parole-process-for-certain-afghans.

U.S. Department of State:

- *Family Reunification for Afghans..* state.gov/afghanistan-family-reunification/.