



ILSAA

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES  
FOR AFGHAN ARRIVALS

Hi, I'm Ali. I am here to help you with the most important issues you'll want to consider with a lawyer when applying for permanent resident status in the United States.



## How to Check Case Processing Times

It's normal to be anxious when awaiting a decision about your application. Ali can help you check the status of your application and understand why it may be taking longer than you expected.

- 1 Form Type or Case Type
- 2 Receipt Number
- 3 Receipt Date
- 4 USCIS Office

Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

**Form I-797C, Notice of Action**

**THIS NOTICE DOES NOT GRANT ANY IMMIGRATION STATUS OR BENEFIT.**

NOTICE TYPE Receipt	NOTICE DATE June 1, 2017
CASE TYPE I-130, Petition for Alien Relative	USCIS ALIEN NUMBER
RECEIPT NUMBER WAC1791234567	PAGE 1 of 1
PRIORITY DATE May 08, 2017	DATE OF BIRTH March 21, 1965
RECEIVED DATE May 08, 2017	PREFERENCE CLASSIFICATION 201 ALINA ADULT CHILD OF USC

JOHN D. SMITH  
123 MAIN STREET, APT. 7

4 USCIS  
California Service Center  
P.O. Box 30111  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92607-0111

USCIS Customer Service Number:  
(800) 375-5283  
APPLICANT COPY

It's taking a long time for my application to process, can you help?



Absolutely. USCIS has several self-service options to check processing times and other relevant details about your case. The online self-service tools are in English. If you are not comfortable using these tools, you can ask your lawyer to check your case processing time for you.



How do I use the online tool?



Happy to help. First, you will need to gather some information on your Case Type, which you can find on your Notice of Action. This graphic shows which information from your Notice of Action you will need to enter into the Case Processing Times tool.



Next, enter your information into the Case Processing Times tool. Click the image of the USCIS Case Processing Times website to access the site.



## Check Case Processing Times

Select your form, form category, and the office that is processing your case

*Refer to your receipt notice to find your form, category, and office. For more information about case processing times and reading your receipt notice, visit the [More Information About Case Processing Times](#) page.*

Form \*

Select One


Form Category \*

Select One

Field Office or Service Center \*

Select One

Get processing time

 Other case processing times resources

[Reducing Processing Backlogs](#)

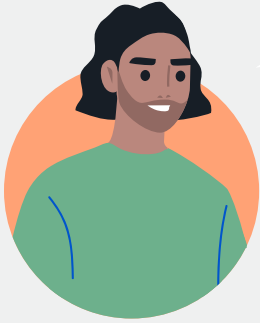
[Frequently Asked Questions About](#)

 Case management tools

[Inquire about a case outside normal processing time](#)

[Check your case status](#)

# Why Can't I Check the Processing Times for Asylum Applications?



I am unable to check the processing time for my asylum application (Form I-589) with this online tool.

The USCIS system processes asylum applications differently, so you are not able to check processing times for asylum applications online.

USCIS is processing asylum applications for certain Afghan nationals faster than other populations. USCIS strives to schedule an interview no more than 45 days after the application was filed, and USCIS aims to process asylum applications filed by Afghan nationals within 150 days after they are received. However, there are exceptional circumstances and processing delays that may cause your application to take longer.

While you cannot find information about asylum application processing times online, you can find out where your asylum application stands in the process by checking the case status. Follow these [instructions](#) to check your case status.

You or your lawyer can also submit a case inquiry to USCIS. Below are the available options on the USCIS website. This graphic is translated into Dari and Pashto to help you see what is available on the USCIS website. It is recommended that a lawyer help you submit a request.



## [View all USCIS Self Service Online Tools](#)

### Case Inquiry



Case outside  
normal  
processing time

*Think a case is taking  
longer than expected?*



Did not receive  
notice  
by mail

*Think a notice  
is lost or missing?*



Did not receive  
card  
by mail

*Think a card  
is lost or missing?*



Did not receive  
document  
by mail

*Think a document  
is lost or missing?*

### Service Request



Appointment  
Accommodations

*Request accommodations  
for an interview  
appointment*



Typographic  
Error

*Make typographic  
corrections for a case*

# How to Read USCIS Processing Times



My brother is trying to get his green card from his approved asylum application. The website says 80% of cases are completed within 29.5 months. Will his green card application really take that long?

The estimated time reflects the time it took USCIS to complete 80% of these cases over the last 6 months. Each case is unique, and some cases may take longer than others. Processing times are a reference point, but do not guarantee that your case will be decided in a similar amount of time.



But my cousin got his green card within a few months of arriving to the United States.

There are many factors that control the timing of a decision being made by the U.S. government, like what forms of immigration relief your cousin has applied for and what immigration status, if any, he currently has. There are many circumstances that can cause differences in case processing times. If you're curious about what's happening with your case, it's recommended that you talk to a lawyer about submitting a case inquiry to follow-up on your application. Another helpful resource is the [USCIS Policy Manual](#), which includes information on when you are eligible to apply for a green card.



# Why Does It Take So Long to Process My Application?



Why does it take so long for cases to process?

Immigration applications are processed at different service centers across the United States. Each center handles specific types of cases depending on your immigration category and your state of residency. For example, applications for permanent residence are in high demand and some centers have been overwhelmed with the number of applications they are receiving.

Processing times also depend on whether an interview is required for the approval of your application. If you must attend an interview, your processing time will depend on when the office can schedule your interview and how many people are waiting ahead of you. These factors can add to the time it takes to process the application.



Is there any way to speed up the process by transferring my application to another service center?

No. You cannot request a transfer, but in some cases, you can request to expedite your application. It's recommended to ask your lawyer if your application is eligible or is already expedited, like most Afghan cases. Keep in mind, certain applications from Afghan citizens or nationals should be marked by a lawyer to ensure they are prioritized.

