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Family Reunification for Afghan Arrivals by Immigration Status

How to use this table

Use the information in this table to get a quick overview of your family reunification options:

- Find your immigration status
- See which family members you can petition for
- Read the brief synopsis of the process

This table presents general information. It does not include all the information you will need. Please consult a lawyer.

Family reunification by immigration status

Your Status	Family Members	Process	Fee?	Notes
Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Unmarried children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative • If the petition is approved, the U.S. government contacts family members to apply for visas • Visa availability depends on family preference categories 	Yes*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need Form I-864, Affidavit of Support, to show financial means or obtain a co-sponsor • Family preference visa categories undergo consular processing in the home country or a safe third country
LPR via Special Immigrant Visa (SIV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse if relationship existed before LPR status • Unmarried children under 21 if relationship existed before LPR status 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the principal applicant adjusted status to SIV in the United States, use Form I-824, Application for Action on an Approved Application or Petition • If the petition is approved, the U.S. government contacts family members to apply for visas as “follow-to-join” 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the family relationship began after LPR status, you must use Form I-130 (family preference categories apply) • If the principal applicant arrived with an SIV immigrant visa, family members continue as “follow-to-join” (no Form I-824)
Asylee/Refugee or LPR via refugee or asylum status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse if married before admission to the United States as a refugee or before grant of asylum in the United States • Unmarried children under 21 as of the date the principal applicant applied for asylum, or, as of the date of the parent’s initial interview for refugee status with USCIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal asylees or refugees file the Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition, within 2 years of receiving status • If the Form I-730 petition is approved, the U.S. government contacts family members to schedule their interviews 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must submit a Form I-730 petition within 2 years of your grant of asylum or admission into the United States as a refugee • The two-year filing deadline may be waived by USCIS for humanitarian reasons on a case-by-case basis. You may be required to provide an explanation about why you did not file the Form I-730 petition within the two-year deadline.
Asylee, refugee, SIV holder or LPR via refugee, asylee, or SIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents, spouse, and unmarried children under 21 • Family members must qualify as refugees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • File Form DS-7656, Affidavit of Relationship (AOR), within 5 years of admission as an asylee, refugee, or SIV with help from a resettlement agency • The process continues via the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family members must be <i>outside</i> Afghanistan • Qualifying family member may include their spouse and children on the application • DNA testing may be required to substantiate familial relationships

Your Status	Family Members	Process	Fee?	Notes
Current parolee or paroled into the United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Unmarried children under 21 as of August 14, 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Form DS-4317, Family Reunification Assistance for Afghan Parolees' Immediate Family Members Outside the United States • If the U.S. government can help your family members depart Afghanistan, your family members will travel to a country where they can be considered for refugee status or parole 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful documents include your Employment Authorization Document (EAD), birth or marriage certificates, Tazkira, and passport • Only available to Operation Allies Welcome (OAW) parolees
Afghan minors who were under 18 upon arrival in the United States and arrived after August 14, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents or legal guardians • Unmarried siblings under 21 as of August 14, 2021 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Form DS-4317 • If the U.S. government can help your family members depart Afghanistan, your family members will travel to a country where they can be considered for refugee status or parole 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful documents may include marriage certificate, birth certificate, Tazkira, passport, and legal custody order • Only available to OAW parolees
U.S. citizen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spouse • Children • Parents • Siblings • Fiancé/Fiancée and their children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Form I-130 • If the petition is approved, the U.S. government contacts family members to apply for visas • Visa availability for family member dependents (e.g., grandchildren) is based on family preference categories • For fiancé/fiancée, use Form I-129F, Petition for Alien Fiancé(e) 	Yes*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need Form I-864 • Use Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, if family is eligible and in the United States and visa is immediately available • Family preference visa categories undergo consular processing in the home country or a safe third country • ILSAA does not provide legal services to U.S. citizens. See your immigration lawyer for help.

* A fee waiver or exemption may be available. Check with your lawyer.

Resources mentioned in this document

- [Form I-130](#), Petition for Alien Relative (USCIS)
- [Form I-129F](#), Petition for Alien Fiancé(e) (USCIS)
- [Form I-864](#), Affidavit of Support (USCIS)
- [Form I-485](#), Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (USCIS)
- [Form I-730](#), Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition (USCIS)
- [Form I-824](#), Application for Action on an Approved Application or Petition (USCIS)
- [Form DS-4317](#), Family Reunification Assistance for Afghan Parolees' Immediate Family Members Outside the United States, (U.S. State Department)
- [Green Card for Family Preference Immigrants](#) (USCIS)
- [U.S. Refugee Admissions Program](#) (U.S. State Department)

More family reunification resources

- [Family Reunification Information for Afghan Arrivals](#) (ILSAA)
- [Providing Family Reunification Assistance to Afghan Arrivals](#) (ILSAA)
- [Family Reunification for Afghans](#) (U.S. State Department)
- [DS-4317 Frequently Asked Questions](#) (#AfghanEvac)
- [Family Immigration for U.S. Citizens and Green Card Holders](#) (USAHello)
- [Family Reunification](#) (Project ANAR)
- [Frequently Asked Questions: Family Reunification Options for Afghans](#) (Catholic Legal Immigration Network)



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