

Foreign National Guide to Maintaining Your Status in the U.S. UPDATED MARCH 10, 2025

Maintaining your status as a foreign national is essential to ensure your ability to live and work legally in the United States. Below are general guidelines regarding your rights and responsibilities as a foreign national in the United States.

Rights and Responsibilities While Inside the U.S.

Each foreign national present in the United States bears the responsibility to understand their immigration status, including status expiration dates and re-entry to the U.S., and to proactively take action to maintain lawful immigration status in the U.S.

- **All foreign nationals eighteen years of age and older, including lawful permanent residents, are required to carry documentation confirming their immigration status at all times.** The specific document a foreign national is required to carry depends on the individual's U.S. immigration status.
 - **Lawful permanent residents** (Green Card holders) are required to carry their Green Card (Form I-551).
 - **All other foreign nationals** are required to carry their valid passport and a copy of their most recent, valid I-94. There are additional requirements based on specific classifications, including:
 - Students holding F-1 or M-1 status are required to carry their Form I-20 and employment authorization document (EAD), if applicable.
 - Individuals holding L-1 status pursuant to the company's corporate L blanket are required to carry their endorsed Form I-129S; and
 - Applicants for adjustment of status with a pending Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, are required to carry their valid EAD card, if applicable.
- **Registration requirement:** All foreign nationals are required to be registered.
 - **Many foreign nationals present in the U.S. have already satisfied this registration requirement.** This includes employment sponsored work visa beneficiaries and their family members who were issued U.S. visas and/or I-94 admission records; and individuals issued EAD cards.

- **If you have a minor child who turned fourteen while inside the U.S.** your child may be required to register. Registration must be completed online, through a [myUSCIS account](#). Everyone required to register, including minor children, must have their own account.
 - **Once registration is complete, your child will be issued proof of registration in their myUSCIS account.** You may print and have this registration accessible.
 - **More information about the registration requirement can be found at the USCIS' [Alien Registration Requirement](#) website.**
- **All foreign nationals, including lawful permanent residents, are required to report changes to their U.S. home address within ten days of moving.** Your home address can be updated via your USCIS online account or by filing Form AR-11. For more information, see [how to change your address](#).
 - **The ACLU "[know your rights](#)" guide provides additional guidance on the rights of foreign nationals in the U.S.**

International Travel Considerations

When entering the U.S., all foreign nationals are required to carry a valid passport and a valid nonimmigrant visa or Green Card, with certain exceptions. Depending on your nonimmigrant status, additional documents, such as confirmation of ongoing employment, may be required.

- **When applying for a visa stamp or entering the U.S., officers from the Department of Homeland Security are authorized to ask questions about the information contained in the petition prepared on your behalf,** including details about the job duties and position requirements. It is important that all information contained in the petition, including worksite location, is accurate and up to date. Any discrepancies should be reported to your employer's immigration team.
- **After traveling, your I-94 record will be updated on the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) website.** Your I-94 record, and the I-94 record of any dependent family members, can be retrieved online to confirm that the listed expiration date and nonimmigrant classification are correct. To retrieve your I-94 record, visit <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/home>.

[Ogletree Deakins' Immigration Practice Group](#) will monitor developments with respect to these and other policy changes and will post updates on the [Immigration](#) blog as additional information becomes available.

These materials are for informational purposes only and should not be construed as legal advice.