



# Tips to Help You Through the Asylum Process

## General Information

Information about who is eligible to file Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal, with USCIS is on our website at [uscis.gov/i-589](https://uscis.gov/i-589). The website includes a filing instruction tool that provides information about where to file the Form I-589 based on information you provide. The form and instructions to the form are also available on the website. Additional information for Afghan nationals is available at [uscis.gov/allieswelcome](https://uscis.gov/allieswelcome). The webpage is translated in Dari and Pashto and includes information about multiple immigration benefits, including asylum.

## Change of Address

If you filed the asylum application online, update your address in your existing USCIS online account at [my.uscis.gov](https://my.uscis.gov).

If you filed the asylum application on paper, update your address online using Form AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card, found at <https://egov.uscis.gov/coa/displayCOAForm.do>.

## Make the Process Faster

1. Ensure your paper application is complete, so we do not reject it. Confirm you signed your paper application and included all form pages.
2. Submit evidence to support your application if you have it.
3. If you need to provide additional documents after submitting your application, you must submit them at least five business days before your interview. If you filed a paper application, submit them to your local asylum office. If you filed online, upload them to your existing USCIS online account. Check with your local asylum office about their policy for submitting documents. To locate your local office, visit <https://egov.uscis.gov/office-locator/#/asy>.
4. Use the most recent version of Form I-589, available at [uscis.gov/i-589](https://uscis.gov/i-589), if you are filing a paper application.
5. All biographic information on the asylum application should be accurate with a correct address and phone number. Common mistakes include errors in the spelling of names, dates of birth, and current addresses.
6. If you were previously issued an A-Number, please include that A-Number on your Form I-589. If you do not, we may not be able to find you in our system and may issue you a new A-Number. This could delay processing your application.

## Complete Form I-589

1. List your spouse and all your children, regardless of age or marital status and whether you want us to consider them as dependents in your asylum claim. This includes stepchildren, deceased or missing children, adopted children, and married or unmarried sons and daughters over 21 years of age.
  - List your spouse, whether they are in the United States or outside the United States, and even if they are filing a separate asylum application of their own.
  - List all your children, whether they are in the United States or outside the United States, and even if they are filing a separate asylum application of their own.
2. You and your eligible spouse and children will need to provide fingerprints and photographs to complete your Form I-589. After you file your asylum application, we will send you a biometric collection appointment notice with written information about where and when to provide fingerprints and photographs. If you do not attend the appointment to provide fingerprints and photographs, then we will reject your Form I-589. Each family member will receive an appointment notice that includes their receipt number and biometric information. They must attend the appointment and take the biometric collection appointment notice to the biometric collection appointment.
3. In Part A.I., Question 8, of Form I-589 (“Residence in the U.S. (*where you physically reside*)”), provide the address where you physically live in the United States. If your physical address is different than the address where you receive mail, you must also provide your mailing address in Question 9 (“Mailing Address in the U.S. (*if different than the address in Item Number 8*)”).
4. If another person receives your mail for you at your mailing address, you may enter that person’s name in the “In Care Of (*if applicable*)” field in your response to Question 9.
5. If your mailing address is a post office box, include that address in Question 9 and include the address where you physically live in Question 8.
6. If your spouse, your child(ren), your parents, or your siblings have similar asylum claims as yours, then please note that in your asylum application in Part C.1, and include your family members’ names and A-Numbers.

## Prepare for the Asylum Interview

1. You may be notified of your asylum interview date up to three weeks before the scheduled interview.
2. Bring a copy of your submitted Form I-589 and all supporting documents to the interview.
3. Bring original documents to your interview: identity documents like birth or marriage certificates, national identification documents (Tazkira), passports, and other evidence.
4. You may submit additional evidence at least five business days before the interview. If you have evidence for your asylum claim stored in your phone, you may submit such evidence by printing a screenshot and submitting it at least five business days before your scheduled interview. You can submit evidence at any time before you have a scheduled interview as well. If you submit evidence fewer than five business days before your scheduled interview, it may take us longer to process your case. If you filed a paper application, submit them to your local asylum office. If you filed online, upload them to your existing USCIS online account. Check with your local asylum office about their policy for submitting documents. To locate your local office, visit <https://egov.uscis.gov/office-locator/#/asy>.
5. Inform your local asylum office if you have family members with related asylum claims who filed separate asylum applications. If you wish to be interviewed on the same day as family members who may have a similar asylum claim, please make that request to your asylum office. The asylum office may schedule the interviews on the same day or with the same asylum officer, if possible. You may contact your assigned asylum office at the contact information below.
6. Children included in your Form I-589 as dependents on your asylum claim must be present at the interview. If possible, though not required, please arrange for a caretaker for young children as they may not be required to remain with you for the entire interview. If you have young children, please bring a quiet, non-electronic activity for your child, like a coloring book.
7. Even if the weather is warm, bring a sweater to your interview, because asylum offices can be cold.

## Questions

Please e-mail your local Asylum Office by finding their contact information here:

<https://egov.uscis.gov/office-locator/#/asy>.