



**WELCOME TO THE**  
*United States*

You have been released by U.S. government officials at the U.S.-Mexico border.

You have already been through a lot, but your journey is not over yet.

We are giving you this small packet as a resource to help you while you travel to your new address.

The information in this packet is not legal advice, and it does not have everything you need to know. It is only meant to help you get started.

There may be other resources in your destination, and online, that can better answer your questions.

**Safe travels and best wishes!**





# YOUR NEXT STEPS .....

People released from the border generally do not have an automatic right to stay in the United States. There is still more to do, which can include:



## Going to all **appointments and court dates**

Failing to go to an appointment or court appearance could result in an order of deportation from the immigration judge. Information on how to find out the date and location of an upcoming appointment or court appearance is included in this packet.



## Telling the government about a **move or change in address**

Failing to tell the government about a new address could result in an order of deportation from the immigration judge or complications in your immigration case. Information on how to inform Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the immigration court of a new address is included in this packet.



## Enrolling children in **school**



## Obeying all **U.S. laws**

Being in a new country can be hard. But, people released at the border can take steps to keep themselves and their family safe and secure, including:



## Trying to find a **lawyer** (web links included in this packet)



## Finding **resources** for medical, legal, housing, and other help

Resources may be found through telephone hotlines, websites, teachers, or trusted organizations



# HAVE QUESTIONS? NEED HELP?

Use the Hotlines and Apps listed below for advice and help.

| ORGANIZATION  | TELEPHONE NUMBER   | SERVICES   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Church World Service</b>                           | + 1-800-375-1433<br>Monday-Friday 9-5pm<br><br>Can leave a voice message if outside of these hours   | CWS Call Center, a national hotline to connect callers with free or affordable resources in their local communities including legal, medical, other basic needs, and volunteer support.  |
| <b>USAHello and the app - FindHello</b>               | <a href="https://find.usahello.org">find.usahello.org</a> or scan this QR code:<br> | FindHello, a web-based and mobile application resource to connect asylum seekers to legal service providers and other community resources, including housing, healthcare, education, and employment services. It is available in English, Spanish, and Arabic. |
| <b>RAICES</b>   | +1-800-437-3071 (call or text)   | Canopy Hotline, a national hotline to connect migrants and asylum seekers to social services in their area and provide assistance with common challenges, such as school enrollment and local transportation.  |
| <b>Advocates for Human Rights</b>                     | +1-612-746-4674  | National Asylum Help Line, a national hotline to connect asylum seekers to free legal services in their area and to provide information about the legal process.   |
| <b>Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborate</b> | +1-833-HOU-IMMI (468-4664)<br>Monday-Friday 9am-5pm MST  | Immigrant Rights Hotline, a national hotline to provide up-to-date information about immigration policies and referrals to legal service providers, and to receive reports of discrimination.  |





# WEBSITES FOR ADDITIONAL HELP

Use the websites listed below for advice and help.

| ORGANIZATION  | WEBPAGE ADDRESS  | SERVICES  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>UNHCR/ACNUR</b>                                    | ENGLISH:<br><a href="http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/asylum-resources.html">www.unhcr.org/en-us/asylum-resources.html</a><br><br>SPANISH:<br><a href="http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/recursos-de-asilo.html">www.unhcr.org/en-us/recursos-de-asilo.html</a>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information about the asylum process</li><li>• Contacts to receive legal aid</li><li>• Country of origin information</li><li>• Resources for LGBTI-based asylum claims</li><li>• Resources for gang violence-based asylum claims</li><li>• Information for stateless persons</li><li>• Frequently asked questions</li></ul> |
| <b>Immigration Advocates Network</b>                  | <a href="http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory">www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory</a><br><br>(many languages, including Spanish)  | Directory of legal services (free or low cost)  |
| <b>Immigration Advocates Network and Pro Bono Net</b> | <a href="http://www.immi.org">www.immi.org</a><br><br>(Spanish and English)  | A resource to help inform immigrants and asylum seekers about their rights, stay up-to-date on changes to immigration law, understand their legal options, and connect to legal help.   |
| <b>Immigration Law Help</b>                           | <a href="http://www.ImmigrationLawHelp.org">www.ImmigrationLawHelp.org</a>   | Directory to locate free and low-cost legal services in a destination city. The user can search in multiple languages to locate a legal organization by zip code. It is also available as an application called Immigo.   |
| <b>American Immigration Lawyers Association</b>       | <a href="http://www.aila.org">www.aila.org</a>   | A database of immigration attorneys that is searchable by area of expertise (such as asylum), language, and location. The database is not limited to low-cost representation.   |
| <b>Executive Office for Immigration Review</b>        | <a href="http://www.justice.gov/eoir/self-help-materials">www.justice.gov/eoir/self-help-materials</a><br><br><a href="http://www.justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legal-service-providers-map">www.justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legal-service-providers-map</a> | Self-help guides to immigration removal proceedings and a list of pro bono legal service providers by state.  |
| <b>The Florence Project</b>                           | <a href="http://www.firrp.org/resources/prose">www.firrp.org/resources/prose</a><br><br>(English and Spanish)  | Resources to help with your asylum claim  |
| <b>Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services</b>      | SPANISH:<br><a href="https://tinyurl.com/y9yyxsvt">https://tinyurl.com/y9yyxsvt</a><br><br>ENGLISH:<br><a href="https://tinyurl.com/y9bvo633">https://tinyurl.com/y9bvo633</a>   | Links to First Steps, a detailed guide for asylum seekers   |





# APPLYING FOR ASYLUM

## What can I do if I fear going back to my country?

**Asylum** is a type of protection that allows a person to stay in the United States instead of being sent back to a country where they are afraid to go **because of persecution**.

Asylum is **not** a guarantee. People hoping to get asylum must apply and show the government that they qualify.

To apply, a person must complete and file an **asylum application (Form I-589)**:

Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
U.S. Department of Justice  
Executive Office for Immigration Review

OMB No. 1615-0067; Expires 09/30/2022

**I-589, Application for Asylum  
and for Withholding of Removal**

## Where can I find Form I-589?



**Online:** [www.uscis.gov/i-589](http://www.uscis.gov/i-589)



**Telephone:** Department of Homeland Security Forms Line 1-800-870-3676



From a **lawyer** or **organization** allowed to help immigrants

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**The law in the United States requires people to apply for asylum within one year of arrival in the United States.**

But: a person may get more time if they can show extraordinary circumstances for a delay or changed circumstances that significantly affect their eligibility for asylum.

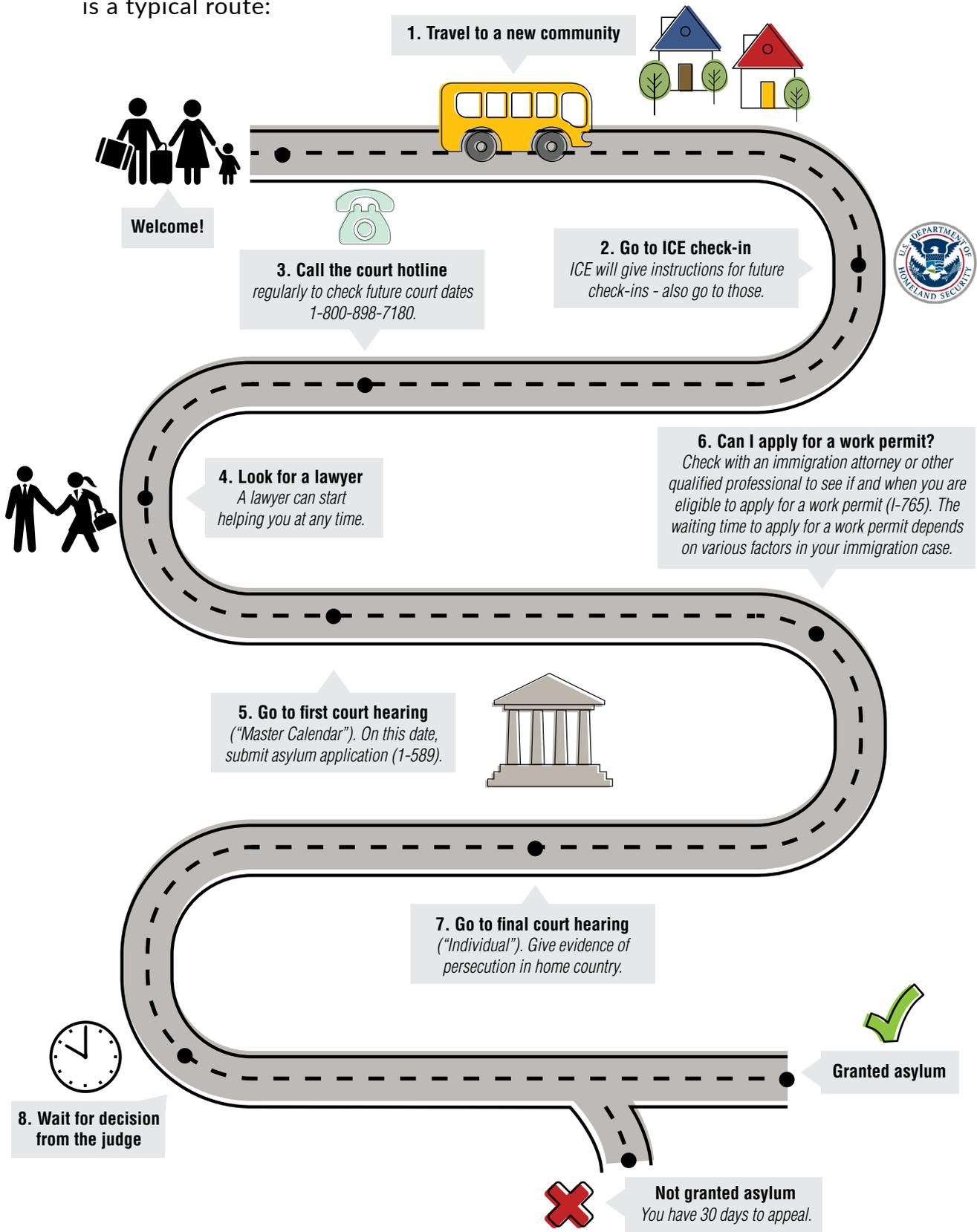
**People who file late must explain the reason for the delay in filing and may be denied the chance to apply for asylum.**

Learn more on the UNHCR/ACNUR website at  
[www.unhcr.org/585ad96e4](http://www.unhcr.org/585ad96e4)



# APPLYING FOR ASYLUM

A person released at the border and applying for asylum will take many steps before the U.S. government makes a decision. Every path is unique, but here is a typical route:





# IMMIGRATION COURT

People released from the border are required to appear before an immigration judge in immigration court. There are three main ways to learn when your court date is.

## 1. Notice to Appear

The Notice to Appear (NTA) is the document that the government issues to an individual instructing them where and when to go to immigration court. The government typically issues the Notice to Appear to individuals before their release at the border. If you did not receive any paperwork at the time of or prior to your release, it is recommended that you consult with an immigration attorney or other qualified professional.

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

**Notice to Appear**

**In removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act.**

Subject ID: 12345678      PIN #: 12323445      File No: 123 456 789  
DOB: 01-01-0000      Expat No: AAA12345678

In the Matter of:  
Respondent: FIRST AND LAST NAME      currently residing at:  
STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP      XXXX XXXXX  
(Please insert city, state and ZIP code)

1. You are an alien not admitted.  
 2. You are an alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or paroled.  
 3. You have been admitted to the United States, but are deportable for the reasons stated below.

The Service attests that you:

- You are not a citizen or national of the United States.
- You are a native of COCOTRY and a citizen of COCOTRY.
- You were admitted to the United States at or near New York New York on or about February 14, 2011 as a nonimmigrant B2 Temporary Visitor for Pleasure with authorization to remain in the United States for a maximum period not to exceed August 14, 2011.
- You have remained in the United States beyond August 14, 2011 without authorization from the Secretary of Homeland Security.

On the basis of the foregoing, it is charged that you are subject to removal from the United States pursuant to the following provision(s) of law:

Section 271(a)(1)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act), as amended, in that after admission as a nonimmigrant under Section 215(a)(2) of the Act, you have remained in the United States for a time longer than permitted, in violation of the Act or any other law of the United States.

This notice is being issued after an asylum officer has found that the respondent has demonstrated a credible fear of persecution or torture.

Section 215(c)(1) order was vacated pursuant to:  8 CFR 201.10(c)(2)  8 CFR 211.10(c)(3)(i)

**YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before an immigration judge of the United States Department of Justice at:**  
**Office at the Immigration Judge, Street Address, Suite Number, City, State, Zip**

on Month Day of Year at Time Hour Minute Second PM/AM at the address above. If you have been removed from the United States based on the charge(s) set forth above.

Date: Month Day Year      City, State

First and Last Name, Field Office Director  
(Print and last name)

See reverse for important information

Form I-861

## 2. EOIR Website

EOIR (the Executive Office for Immigration Review) is the name of the office in charge of the immigration courts. On its website, you can look up the date and location of your immigration hearing in its online Automated Case Information system.

- For English, go to <https://portal.eoir.justice.gov/InfoSystem/Form?Language=EN>
- For Spanish, go to <https://portal.eoir.justice.gov/InfoSystem/Form?Language=ES>

To find out your court date, enter your **A number**, also known as your file number. This is the number assigned to you and included on all documents from immigration including the Notice to Appear. It begins with an “A” and is followed by nine digits (example A123-456-789).

If the website does not show a hearing, verify that the box says, “this case is pending”. Sometimes it takes time for the immigration court to schedule a hearing.

You should also check the box that says “information about this Court” to verify the court’s address. It is important to make sure that the court location is the closest to the place where you live. If it does not show the closest Immigration court location, you should seek assistance from an immigration attorney or other qualified professional.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, some immigration courts may be closed and some hearings may be postponed. While new hearing dates are being scheduled, case status and hearing date information may not be updated in this system. Respondents or their representatives who are affected will be sent notice of their new hearing date at least 10 days before the new hearing date. This system will be updated after the issuance of the new hearing notice. As always, court documents such as notices are your official source of information. Before going to an immigration court for your hearing, please check the EOIR website ([www.justice.gov/eoir](http://www.justice.gov/eoir)) for information about the operational status of the relevant immigration court.

**Automated Case Information** en Español

Welcome to the Automated Case Information system. The following information relates to the primary case only. Please contact your local court if you need bond hearing information.

If you are a recent arrival and were apprehended between ports of entry on or after May 28, 2021, placed in removal proceedings, and enrolled in Alternatives to Detention, please see resources.

**A-Number**

Note: This form is protected by eCAPTCHA

**Instructions:** The alien registration number, also known as the A-Number, begins with the letter “A” and is followed by an 8 or 9 digit number. This number is printed in all DHS and EOIR correspondence. If your A-Number has 9 digits, please enter those numbers. If your A-Number has 8 digits, please enter a zero followed by the eight digits. Do not enter the letter “A”.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE | EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW | 1507 LEESBURG PIKE, SUITE 2000, FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041  
FORM I-861 OF 03/2017



# IMMIGRATION COURT

## 3. EOIR Hotline

EOIR also operates its telephonic Case Information system in English and Spanish available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Here are instructions on using the hotline:

- Dial **1-800-898-7180**.
- To hear the instructions in English, dial the number **1**; for Spanish, dial the number **2**.
- Enter your A number. Confirm you entered it correctly, or if incorrect, re-enter it.
- The operator will spell your name starting with your last name and then your first name. Confirm your name is correct, or if incorrect, re-enter your A number. Please note that if your name is incorrect on your Notice to Appear, it will also be incorrect in the system.
- The hotline provides a menu of options. Dial the number **1** to hear your next hearing date.
- If your name is in the system but there is no hearing date, you can dial the number **3** to hear if the judge has made a decision in your case. This is important in case you missed a court hearing and the judge made a ruling in your absence.



### Don't Forget!

- It is very important that the immigration court has your correct mailing address so that you don't miss any important communication from the court. Instructions on updating your address are included in this packet.
- When looking up information about your family's next court hearing in either the online or telephonic Case Information systems, be sure to look up every family member's A number, including children's. Each individual has their own A number, therefore you must check each one in case not everyone in the family has the same court date.
- If the online or telephonic Case Information systems do not have any information about an upcoming court hearing, check back weekly until the system is updated with your Notice to Appear, including the date and location of the next court hearing.



# WANT TO WORK?

People released from the border do not have a guaranteed right to work. If they are applying for **asylum**, they may be eligible to apply for a work permit after a waiting period. The application for a work permit may or may not be granted.

**For more detailed information, it may be useful to:**

- Ask a lawyer (see list in this packet for assistance)
- Review U.S. government instructions at [www.uscis.gov/i-765](http://www.uscis.gov/i-765)
- Read Chapter 15 in First Steps: [www.lirs.org/first-steps/](http://www.lirs.org/first-steps/)

*Note: the reference to the waiting period to apply for a work permit in First Steps is out of date and does not apply to all asylum seekers. Please check with an immigration attorney or qualified legal professional.*

## HOW TO GET STARTED

### 1. File an **asylum application (Form I-589)**

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

OMB No. 1615-0067; Expires 09/30/2022

U.S. Department of Justice  
Executive Office for Immigration Review

### **I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal**

### 2. After the required waiting period, apply for a work permit using **Form I-765**. *I-765 instructions say what evidence must be included with the application.*

#### **Application For Employment Authorization**

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

#### **USCIS**

**Form I-765**  
OMB No. 1615-0040  
Expires 07/31/2022

*Filing an I-765 before the waiting period is over could result in automatic denial.*

Attending all appointments, interviews, or court hearings may help the work permit process, and can protect from denial of work permits or deportation.

Any delay by the applicant (*example: missing finger printing or biometrics*), will **not** be included in the waiting period. This can make the wait longer.



# CHANGING AN ADDRESS? .....

People released from the border with a Notice to Appear in immigration court are required to tell **the U.S. government if they move to a new address.**

To do this, they submit an **EOIR-33 Change of Address form:**

U.S. Department of Justice

Executive Office for Immigration Review

**Alien's Change of Address/Phone Number Form  
Immigration Court**

**Each immigration court may have a different address. Check the court to find the right form:**

[www.justice.gov/eoir/form-eoir-33-eoir-immigration-court-listing](http://www.justice.gov/eoir/form-eoir-33-eoir-immigration-court-listing)

People who change addresses may also want or need to **change their court location** to one that is closer.

To do this, they should submit a **Motion to Change Venue.**

**Detailed information and samples on how to complete and submit a Change of Address form and a Motion to Change Venue can be found here:**

[www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/pages/attachments/2016/01/14/have\\_you\\_moved.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/pages/attachments/2016/01/14/have_you_moved.pdf)

\*It is a good idea to review all of the requirements listed\*

The U.S. government says that until the government has made a decision about the Motion to Change Venue, the applicant “must appear at all scheduled hearings” in the original court.





# TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS .....

## Be Vigilant and Ask for Help

- Has someone taken your identification or documents?
- Has someone forced you to work for them to pay a debt?
- Has someone forced you to work or have sex without your agreement?
- Has someone threatened or hurt you or your family?
- Are you younger than 18 and been paid for sex?

**People have rights in the United States, no matter what their immigration status is.**

Free and completely confidential help for survivors of human trafficking can be found here:

[www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)

**National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888**

**BeFree Textline: text "Help" to 233733 (BeFree)**

*\*The text hotline operates in English, but the telephone hotline has people who speak Spanish.*



### LEARN MORE

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Blue Campaign

[www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign](http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign)