



FLORENCE
IMMIGRANT
& REFUGEE
RIGHTS PROJECT

Post-Grant Information for People who win Asylum before an Immigration Judge¹

Congratulations on winning your case! Below you will find information that explains how to get your papers in order so you can start your life in the U.S. as a new Asylee. It is important to begin this process **as soon as** you are granted asylum and released from detention.

1. Changing Your Address with Immigration

- After you leave the detention center, you must provide immigration with the address where you will be living. Immigration requires that you notify them each time you move and change your address.
- Go to the website: www.uscis.gov and click on “Online Change of Address”, fill in the required information, and print the receipt or copy down the confirmation number for your records.

2. Getting a Social Security Number

- You are eligible for an unrestricted social security card. You **must** have a social security number in order to accept a job or get public benefits in the U.S.
- You can request your social security card with the Immigration Judge’s **original** decision. Sometimes the Social Security Office says that you need identification, but this is incorrect. Bring the document, “Immigration Documents You Need to Work in the US” to the Social Security office in case they have any questions.
- Social Security numbers are free (but you can only get 10 replacement cards in your whole life so guard yours in a safe place once you have it).

3. Getting a State ID

- The state ID is an official government-issued ID and will allow you to make an appointment with Immigration to obtain your I-94 visa.
- You can get a temporary ID before or after you get your social security card. You **must** show them the original judge’s decision and one other form of official ID such as a social security card, a school ID, a passport, or sometimes even the ID that you may have with you from a prison or from the Immigration detention center.
- Temporary Arizona State IDs are \$12; costs in other states may be different.

¹ This guide was created by the staff of the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project to assist pro se people detained in facilities in Arizona who are granted asylum by an Immigration Judge and are subsequently released from custody. It does **not** provide legal advice and should not substitute getting advice from immigration counsel. The guide is copyright protected but you are free to copy and distribute it for educational and outreach purposes. We kindly ask that credit be made to the Florence Project when using all or part of this guide.

4. Making the USCIS Appointment

- Once you have an ID, you **must** make an appointment with US Customs and Immigration Services (CIS) to present the judge's decision to them. *They will not issue an I-94 visa for you unless you make this appointment and show up in person with the right information.*
- Make an INFOPASS appointment on the internet at www.uscis.gov (most public libraries have free access to the internet and printers if you do not have a computer at home).
- You **must** print out the receipt notice from the website and bring it with you. No one is allowed in the building unless they have a scheduled INFOPASS appointment and the receipt. Also, all adults entering the CIS building need an official form of picture ID (like a passport or a state ID).
- You must bring the **original** judge's order granting asylum to this appointment.

5. Getting a Passport

- Until you become a citizen of the U.S., you are still a citizen of your country of origin and can apply for a passport from the consulate of your country of citizenship.
- Passports can cost anywhere from \$60-200 and can take anywhere from one day to several months to arrive depending on what country you are from.
- It may be a good idea to get a passport if you don't have any other official forms of ID.
- Anyone who travels to most places outside of the U.S. needs to have a passport from their country of citizenship. Once you are a Lawful Permanent Resident, you will have permission to leave the U.S. for up to six months out of the year. If you are thinking about traveling, you should consider getting a passport.
- Also, if you have a passport and lose your green card in the future, you can always make another INFOPASS appointment with CIS to get a stamp in your passport until your replacement green card comes so you can continue working and living here without problems.
- Until you get your I-94, social security card, and ID you should make a photocopy of the judge's order and carry it with you at all times in case you are stopped by the police or immigration. The judge's order proves that you were granted asylum.
- If you are arrested or detained, show them the judge's order and **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING THAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND!** You just won asylum and you don't want to take any risks by signing for your deportation or pleading to certain crimes. Try to find an attorney to help you if you are detained or arrested.

OTHER HELPFUL TIPS:

1. If possible, keep your ID from detention (for example: your wrist band or CCA ID), so you can apply for a state ID as well as make an *INFOPASS* appointment with Immigration.
2. If you have any forms of identification in your property, ICE must return them to you when you are released. If your ID or other documents are not returned to you, contact your Deportation Officer.
3. Make sure that you have the **ORIGINAL** decision from the Immigration Judge showing that you were granted asylum, not a copy. If you do not have the original copy, contact your lawyer, the Florence Project, or the immigration court where you were granted asylum.
4. Until you get your I-94, social security card, and ID you should make a photocopy of the judge's order and carry it with you at all times in case you are stopped by the police or immigration. The judge's order proves that you were granted asylum.
5. If you are arrested or detained, show them the judge's order and **DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING THAT YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND!** You just won asylum and you don't want to take any risks by signing for your deportation or pleading to certain crimes. Try to find an attorney to help you if you are detained or arrested.
6. Keep a copy of every document you submit to Immigration, Social Security, or other agencies for your records. These offices are very busy and may lose or misplace your information.

IN THE FUTURE

- 1 One year after you have been granted asylum, you are eligible to apply for adjustment of status. You must prove that you
 - a. have been physically present in the United States for one year after having been granted asylum;
 - b. still have a well-founded fear of persecution in your home country
 - c. have not been firmly resettled in any foreign country, and;
 - d. are not "inadmissible" or need a waiver of applicable grounds of "inadmissibility."

5 Five years after you have been granted asylum, you are eligible to apply for naturalization to become a US citizen.