

GUIDE TO REMOVAL

This is a brief step-by-step guide to navigating the removal process in the United States. For legal advice, please refer to the organizations listed on the back.



Starting the removal process.

01

You should receive a letter from the US government named "Notice to Appear" (NTA). The NTA starts the removal process and will say why the government believes you are subject to removal.



Check your court paper for a court date.

02

You should receive a letter that contains a Master Calendar Hearing date before an immigration judge. The purpose of this hearing is for you to challenge parts of the NTA that you do not agree with and for the judge to schedule a future hearing to decide your claim. There will be many other immigrants scheduled at the same time, and your portion should be very quick. You **MUST** attend this and any other hearing after this.*



Connect with an immigration attorney.

03

You can have an attorney represent you at the Master Calendar Hearing. If you do not have an attorney, you may ask the judge for more time to find one. Judges will typically give you a couple more opportunities to find an attorney, but they will not delay your case forever.



File for eligible immigration relief.

04

There may be filing deadlines for certain immigration relief. For example, the deadline to file for asylum is one year after entering the country. It is important to talk to an attorney to find out what immigration relief you are eligible for.

*If you fail to attend any hearing, the judge can order you to be removed. If you have a very good reason for your absence, it is your responsibility to let the court know as soon as possible.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I know if I'm in removal?

You should receive a letter titled "Notice to Appear." This is typically handed to you directly.

What is an A number? Where can I find mine?

The A number is a nine-digit number starting with an A that immigration services assigns to you if you are ever detained. In the "Notice to Appear" letter, it is listed at the top right as the file number.

What kind of questions will the judge ask me at my Master Calendar Hearing?

The judge will ask you to confirm your name, address, and the language you speak. If you do not have a lawyer with you at your hearing, you can ask for more time to find a lawyer.

How do I find a lawyer to represent me in immigration court?

You are responsible for finding your own lawyer, which may come with a cost. You can visit the Bar Association of San Francisco Lawyer Referral Service at <https://www.sfbar.org/lris/> or call their number 415-989-1616 for assistance.

Is the court date an immigration police (ICE) check-in?

No, ICE check-ins are for ICE to check that you are where you say you are. The hearing date is not related to ICE.

How do I get a social security number?

You can apply for a work permit and a social security number 150 days after filing for asylum. For more detail, consult with an attorney.

How do I apply for asylum?

To qualify for asylum, you must have suffered past persecution or demonstrate a fear of future persecution based on at least one protected ground: race, religion, nationality, political opinion or if you are a part of a "particular social group." The deadline for asylum is one year after entering the US. Please contact a lawyer to see if you are eligible for asylum.

I moved or got a new phone number. How do I update my information?

It is important for the government to have the correct information on file so that you receive communications from them. If your contact information changes, you can file a form called the "[EOIR-33](#)" to update your information.

For more information, contact:



禧年移民維護社

<https://caasf.org/> (415) 274-6750

<https://jubileelegal.org/> (415) 813-1958