



Adjustment of Status/Green Card Application Based on Marriage to US Citizen

Timeline

- Case filed:** Application package is filed with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Package consists of an I-130 Immediate Relative Petition, I-485 Adjustment of Status Application, I-765 Application for Employment Authorization, and other forms/documents.
- Within 2 weeks of filing the case:** USCIS will send out a set of receipt notices to you and to us to confirm that the case is in their system. Receipt Numbers are assigned to each application. You can track each application to some degree on the USCIS website.
- 3-6 weeks after filing the case:** USCIS will send out a "biometrics" appointment notice for you to appear for at the local office to take fingerprints and a digital photo. This is not an interview.
- 3 months after filing:** USCIS will mail a Temporary Employment Authorization Card to you. With this, you can go to the social security office and apply for social security number if you don't already have one. The employment card will also show that you have temporary permission to travel abroad, if you are eligible for it. If you are not eligible to travel, our office will not file for permission for you to travel.
- 4 to 6 months after filing:** USCIS will send an Interview Notice for you and your spouse to appear at the local USCIS office for an interview. The purpose of the interview is to confirm that the marriage is bona fide and that the foreign national is otherwise qualified for a green card. The officer will expect you to have documentation of joint residence and joint finances such as a joint lease, joint checking account statements, joint tax return, joint insurance policies, etc. When we receive the interview notice, we will contact you to set up an appointment with me for interview preparation. If all goes well on the day of the interview, you will be approved for permanent resident status the same day. Your green card will come in the mail about 2 weeks later. (Note that if you have been married for less than 2 years on the day you are approved for permanent resident status, then you will be granted **conditional** permanent residence. This status is valid for 2 years. At the end of the 2 year period you must jointly file an I-751 petition to remove the conditions on your residence.)