



REGISTRATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND DETENTION



REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS: WHO MUST REGISTER & WHAT COUNTS

Under immigration law (8 U.S.C. §§ 1302 & 1306), noncitizens age 14 or older who remain in the U.S. for 30 days or more must be registered with the federal government. Registration refers to providing your personal and immigration information to the U.S. government and being formally recognized in the immigration system.



You are required to register if:

- You are not a U.S. citizen
- You are 14 years old or older
- You have been in the U.S. for more than 30 days



You are likely already registered if you have:

- A pending or approved green card (I-485) application
- Filed for asylum, DACA, TPS, or U visa
- Received an Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
- Been issued an I-94 or placed in removal proceedings with a Notice to Appear (NTA)
- Appeared at a USCIS biometrics appointment or interview



You may not be registered if:

- You entered the U.S. without permission and have never applied for anything
- You were listed on someone else's application but never filed on your own
- You filed an I-130 or I-601A but do not have an EAD, I-94, or NTA
- You received an I-94 or parole before turning 14 and never filed after that age
- Your only filings were rejected or never processed
- You are in the U.S. but only have pending consular processing abroad



Penalties for Failing to Register

- Failure to register is a federal misdemeanor (8 U.S.C. § 1306(b)) punishable by:
 - Up to 6 months in jail
 - A fine of up to \$1,000
- Can negatively affect immigration cases (e.g., waiver denials)
- May support charges of unlawful presence
- Increases risk of detention or expedited removal



How to Register if You May Be Unregistered

If you are 14 or older and believe you are not yet registered:

1. Submit Form AR-11 (Change of Address) to USCIS
2. File any appropriate immigration application (e.g., I-485, asylum, TPS)
3. Consider filing Form G-325A or G-325R to provide identifying information
4. Keep a copy of any receipt notices

Do not attempt to register without understanding the risks. Registration may lead to exposure to enforcement.



EXPEDITED REMOVAL: WHO IS AT RISK & WHAT TO CARRY

If you cannot prove you've been in the U.S. for more than two years, you may be subject to expedited removal—a process where DHS can deport you without a hearing.



Carry:

- Proof of 2+ years of presence (school, medical, lease records)
- Copies of immigration filings and work permits
- Birth certificates of children or proof of U.S. family

If you fear harm in your country:

"I am afraid to return. I want to apply for asylum."



IF YOU ARE DETAINED

- Do not sign anything you don't understand
- Say: "I want to speak to a lawyer."
- You don't have to answer questions beyond your name and identity



Keep with you (on paper):

- Form G-28 (if you have a lawyer)
- Any pending application receipts
- Proof of residence, family, or prior immigration activity

Locate a detainee: <https://locator.ice.gov>