

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

DS-260: immigrant visa application and civil-record preparation

How does DS-260 differ from a petition, DS-160 or adjustment of status?

DS-260 is the Department of State's online immigrant visa application accessed through CEAC. It is distinct from a USCIS petition, DS-160 nonimmigrant visa research and I-485 adjustment. Keep application answers, civil-document preparation and later consular instructions in separate but connected parts of the file.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify the actual immigrant visa stage and correspondence.
- ☐ Keep DS-260 separate from DS-160 and I-485.
- ☐ Reconcile answers with source civil records.
- ☐ Track application, document and interview tasks distinctly.
- ☐ Store case-access information privately.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

Department of State: DS-260 frequently asked questions

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/forms/online-immigrant-visa-forms/ds-260-faqs.html>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

<https://immigrantinsider.com/editorial-policy/>

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<https://immigrantinsider.com/forms/ds-260/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.