

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Affirmative asylum: USCIS application and interview stages

How does the affirmative asylum process differ from a screening or court case?

USCIS describes affirmative asylum as a process distinct from retained Asylum Merits Interviews and defensive asylum in removal proceedings. Identify which process owns the actual case. A screening result, application receipt and asylum grant have different meanings.

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 agency and any existing asylum-related record.
- ☐ Preserve events in the person's own account without inventing details.
- ☐ Record what is available and where it came from.
- ☐ Identify whether qualified help is involved and the scope of assistance.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: Obtaining asylum: process settings, filing rule and exceptions

<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/asylum/obtaining-asylum-in-the-united-states>

USCIS: I-589: Asylum and Withholding of Removal

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-589>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

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Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/humanitarian/affirmative-asylum/>

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.