

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Asylum filing timing: the one-year rule and exception framework

What is the general asylum filing deadline, and how do exceptions work?

USCIS describes a general affirmative-asylum filing rule of one year after the last arrival, subject to changed-circumstances or extraordinary-circumstances exceptions and a reasonable-period requirement. That framework does not decide an individual deadline or exception. The actual protection process also matters: affirmative, asylum-merits and defensive proceedings do not all use the same filing event.

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 arrival history and its sources.
- ☐ Identify which institution and asylum process holds the matter.
- ☐ Keep the actual filing or application-event evidence.
- ☐ Preserve events relevant to any exception question separately.
- ☐ Mark uncertain dates and conflicting records honestly.
- ☐ Obtain qualified review of the current rule and individual history promptly.

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>

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Source links (continued)

EOIR / Department of Justice: EOIR Forms & Fees

<https://www.justice.gov/eoir/eoir-forms>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

Return to the complete guide

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

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.