

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Asylum and refugee admission: different starting locations and processes

How are asylum and refugee admission different protection processes?

Asylum and refugee admission are related protection concepts with different procedural starting points. USCIS's asylum guidance concerns people physically present in the United States or seeking admission, while the refugee framework generally concerns processing outside the country. Neither label should be inferred from a travel document alone.

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 protection route actually being researched.
- ☐ Keep the person's documented circumstances without assuming a route from location alone.
- ☐ Preserve communications from the institution handling the matter.
- ☐ Keep related family questions connected but separately identified.

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: Humanitarian programs: official category navigation

<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian>

USCIS: I-589: Asylum and Withholding of Removal

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

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Source links (continued)

USCIS: Permanent residence after refugee admission: context-specific process

<https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-eligibility/green-card-for-refugees>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

USAGov: How to seek refuge in the U.S.: overseas refugee framework

<https://www.usa.gov/refugee>

USCIS: Permanent residence after asylum: context-specific process

<https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-eligibility/green-card-for-asylees>

Return to the complete guide

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

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.