

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Deferred action and lawful status: identify the actual decision

Does deferred action itself confer lawful immigration status?

The USCIS DACA FAQ expressly distinguishes deferred action from lawful status and describes a case-by-case framework. Deferred action should not be used as a blanket label for every pending humanitarian request, work authorization or later benefit.

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

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Preserve the exact agency communication.
- ☐ Keep any relevant official announcement separate from the individual record.
- ☐ Identify a work document or request as its own matter.
- ☐ Preserve changes and subsequent agency communications.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: DACA FAQ: deferred action and lawful-status distinction

<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-of-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals-daca/frequently-asked-questions>

USCIS: Humanitarian programs: official category navigation

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

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/deferred-action/>

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.