

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Family immigration: identify the petitioner, beneficiary and legal relationship

Which family relationship starts the immigration category question?

Identify who is petitioning, that person's citizenship or residence category, and the exact legal relationship. The Department of State lists different petitioning relationships for U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Sharing a household or being described as family does not itself establish a petition category.

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 official record establishing the claimed relationship.
- ☐ Identify the person whose record would support the petition.
- ☐ Keep the relative's own history distinct from the petitioner's.
- ☐ Record marriages or births or other relevant family events chronologically.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: I-130: Petition for Alien Relative

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-130>

U.S. Department of State: Family immigration: categories and agency roles

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/family-immigration.html>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

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<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/family/family-relationship/>

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.