

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Accompanying and following-to-join family: identify the actual principal case

Does a family member need a separate petition or a following-to-join process?

Start with the principal person's category and actual decision. Some family relationships are addressed within a derivative or following-to-join framework; others require separate petitions. The words family member do not decide which process applies.

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 exact immigrant category and event.
- ☐ Preserve when the relevant family connection was established.
- ☐ Keep each person's own identity and immigration history.
- ☐ Retain instructions explaining the separate family member's stage.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

Department of State: Affidavit of Support: sponsor, joint sponsor and domicile

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/the-immigrant-visa-process/step-1-submit-a-petition/i-864-affidavit-faqs.html>

U.S. Department of State: Employment-based immigrant visas: process categories

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/employment-based-immigrant-visas.html>

USCIS: Form I-824: additional action on an already approved request

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-824>

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Source links (continued)

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

USCIS: Form I-730: refugee and asylee relative petition records

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-730>

Return to the complete guide

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

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.