

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Returning resident visas: the SB-1 determination and later visa stage

What happens in an SB-1 returning resident visa process after an extended stay abroad?

An SB-1 inquiry is a Department of State consular process for certain permanent residents seeking to resume residence after an extended absence. It begins with a returning-resident determination, not a lost-card replacement. Approval of that determination is followed by immigrant-visa requirements, including medical and interview steps; it does not guarantee a visa or admission.

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

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Read the current embassy or consulate's SB-1 instructions.
- ☐ Identify the original residence grant and departure date.
- ☐ Connect prolonged-stay reasons to authentic evidence.
- ☐ Keep the determination and later visa requirements separate.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

U.S. Department of State: Returning resident visas: distinct consular inquiry

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

USCIS: International travel as a permanent resident

<https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/after-we-grant-your-green-card/international-travel-as-a-permanent-resident>

USCIS: I-131: Travel Documents, Parole Documents, and Arrival/Departure Records

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-131>

Returning resident visas: the SB-1 determination and later visa stage

Source links (continued)

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/lpr/returning-resident/>

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.