

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

A spouse immigrant visa: USCIS, NVC and the consular post

What happens between a spouse petition and an immigrant-visa decision abroad?

The consular journey separates the USCIS petition, National Visa Center preparation, consular visa decision and CBP admission. An approved relationship petition begins another stage; it is not an issued visa or a promise that an interview will produce one.

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 family request and actual agency decision.
- ☐ Keep document-processing correspondence with its stated scope.
- ☐ Preserve relationship and identity records relevant to the visa file.
- ☐ Identify the post's actual instructions and decisions.

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: Immigrant visa process: petition and later institutions

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

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

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

USCIS: I-130: Petition for Alien Relative

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

USCIS: Green Card eligibility categories: official navigation

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

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

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.