

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

An immigration timeline: entry, request, decision and document

Which events belong on an immigration timeline?

Keep admissions, benefit requests, decisions and document delivery as different events. The Department of State and USCIS sources distinguish their effects; a timeline should identify the deciding agency rather than collapse everything into one status label.

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 record tied to each arrival rather than one undated status label.
- ☐ Note the request and filing-related record without assuming its legal effect.
- ☐ Connect the actual decision to the request it addresses.
- ☐ Tickets and other travel records may help reconstruct movement but need corroboration where uncertain.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

U.S. Department of State: Visa information: frequently asked questions

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/frequently-asked-questions.html>

USCIS: I-130: Petition for Alien Relative

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

An immigration timeline: entry, request, decision and document

Source links (continued)

USCIS: I-765: Employment Authorization

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>

Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/status/status-timeline/>

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.