

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Widow(er) immigration: an existing spouse petition or a separate self-petition

How does a U.S.-citizen spouse's death affect the family-petition framework?

The USCIS widow(er) guidance distinguishes an existing spouse I-130 that converts to an I-360 framework from a separate self-petition when no such petition was filed. Residence still requires its own applicable stage and review. Preserve the actual marriage, death and petition history.

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 event and identity information.
- ☐ Keep the civil relationship and relevant earlier records.
- ☐ Retain the full request and agency correspondence.
- ☐ Record later facts relevant to review without public disclosure of private details.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: Widow(er) of a U.S. citizen: petition conversion and residence stages

<https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-eligibility/green-card-for-widower-of-a-us-citizen>

USCIS: Form I-360: one petition form with distinct eligibility categories

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-360>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

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

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

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.