

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Petition, application and approval: identify the decision's scope

Does every immigration approval grant the same benefit?

No. A relationship petition, employer classification petition, extension request, work authorization and visa decision answer different questions. Read the exact request and deciding agency. One favorable result should not be treated as approval of every connected stage.

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

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Name the original request and responsible agency.
- ☐ Keep complete notices rather than status snippets alone.
- ☐ Link each decision to the request it addresses.
- ☐ Track document production and delivery separately.
- ☐ Record unresolved wording without guessing its legal effect.
- ☐ Use the actual records when seeking qualified clarification.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: I-130: Petition for Alien Relative

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

USCIS: Policy Manual: extension of stay and change of status

<https://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-2-part-a-chapter-4>

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Source links (continued)

USCIS: I-765: Employment Authorization

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

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

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

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>

Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/petition-application-and-notice/>

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.