

**Instructions for I-821, Application for  
Temporary Protected Status****Instructions**

Please read these instructions carefully to properly complete this form. If you need more space to complete an answer, use a separate sheet(s) of paper. Write your name and Alien Registration Number (A #), if any, at the top of each sheet of paper and indicate the section and number of the item to which the answer refers.

**What Is the Purpose of This Form.**

To apply for a temporary immigration status granted to eligible nationals of designated countries.

**Who May File This I-821.**

You must be an eligible national of a foreign state (or parts thereof) or an alien having no nationality who last habitually resided in a foreign state that has been designated for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to section 244A of the Immigration and Nationality Act. You should check with the nearest office of USCIS for designations currently in force or visit our website at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

**General Instructions.****Step 1. Fill out the form I-821****1. How Should You Prepare This Form?**

- A. Type or print legibly in black ink.
- B. If you need extra space to complete any item, attach a continuation sheet, indicate the item number and date and sign each sheet.
- C. Answer all questions fully and accurately. If any item does not apply, please write "N/A."

**Step 2. General requirements****1. Are You Also Required to File Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization?**

Yes. Each applicant, regardless of age, must also submit a completed Form I-765, even if employment authorization is not being requested.

If your application for TPS is granted and you want to travel outside the United States and return, you must request advance parole from USCIS by filing a Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, with the appropriate USCIS office. A Form I-512 travel document will be issued to you if your request is granted.

**2. What Documents Should You Submit?**

**You do not need to provide original documents with this application.**

You must give USCIS copies of documents to prove you are a national of the country designated for TPS, your date of entry into the United States, and your U.S. residence. In addition:

- A. In certain circumstances, USCIS may ask you to submit original documents.
- B. Copies of documents in a foreign language must be accompanied by an English translation. The translator must certify that the translation is accurate and that he or she is competent to translate the foreign language into English.
- C. In certain circumstances, USCIS may ask you to submit original documents.
- D. Copies of documents in a foreign language must be accompanied by an English translation. The translator must certify that the translation is accurate and that he or she is competent to translate the foreign language into English.
- E. **Documentation exception:** If you are filing this application for annual registration, re-registration, or renewal of temporary treatment benefits (**Parts 1 and 2** on Form I-821), you do not have to submit any copies of documentation. You may, however, be asked for additional information and/or documentation in certain circumstances.

**3. What Documents Do You Need to Prove Identity and Nationality?**

Submit any of the following:

- A. Passport;
- B. Birth certificate accompanied by photo identification; or
- C. Any national identity document from your country of origin bearing your photo and/or fingerprint.

**4. What Documents Do You Need to Prove Date of Entry Into the United States?**

Submit any of the following documents:

- A. Passport;
- B. I-94 Arrival/Departure Record; or
- C. Copies of documents specified in item **Number 5** below.

## 5. What Documents Do You Need to Prove Residence in the United States?

Submit any relevant documents such as:

- A. Employment records (e.g., pay stubs, W-2 Forms, certification of the filing of Federal income tax returns, state verification of the filing of state income tax returns, letters from employer(s) or, if you are self employed, letters from banks and other firms with whom you have done business.

**NOTE:** In all of these documents, your name and the name of the employer or other interested organization must appear on the form or letter, as well as relevant dates. Letters from employers must be in affidavit form and shall be signed and attested to by the employer under penalty of perjury.

Such letters must include: **(1)** your address(es) at the time of employment; **(2)** exact period(s) of employment; **(3)** period(s) of layoff; **(4)** duties with the company. If the employment records are unavailable, submit an affidavit form-letter explaining why these records cannot be obtained. This affidavit form-letter shall be signed and attested to by the employer under penalty of perjury.

- B. Rent receipts, utility bills (gas, electric, phone, etc.), receipts, or letters from companies showing the dates during which you received service.
- C. School records (letters, report cards, etc.) from the schools that you or your children have attended in the United States, showing the name(s) of the schools and periods of school attendance.
- D. Hospital or medical records concerning treatment or hospitalization of you or your children, showing the name of the medical facility or physician and the date(s) of the treatment or hospitalization.
- E. Attestations by churches, unions or other organizations to your residence identifying you by name. The attestation must be signed by an official (whose title is shown); show inclusive dates of membership; state the address where you resided during membership period(s); include the seal of the organization impressed on the letter or the letterhead of the organization, if the organization has letterhead stationery; establish how the author knows you; and establish the origin of the information being attested to.
- F. Additional documents may include money order receipts for money sent in or out of the country; passport entries; birth certificates of children born in the United States; dated bank transactions; correspondence between you and another person or organization; U.S. Social Security card; Selective Service card; automobile license receipts, title, vehicle registration, etc.; deeds, mortgages, contracts to which you have been a party; tax receipts; insurance policies; receipts; letters; or

## 6. What If Documents Are Not Available?

If documents are not available, you may give USCIS an affidavit showing proof of unsuccessful efforts to obtain the documents, explaining why the consular process is unavailable (for identity documents), and affirming that you are a national of the designated state. (USCIS may require a statement from the appropriate issuing authority, certifying that the document is not available.) Affidavits may also be used to help prove your date of entry into the United States and residence in the United States.

- A. Except as noted below, all applicants for initial registration, re-registration or renewal of temporary treatment benefits will have a full set of biometrics (fingerprints, photograph, and a signature) collected at an Application Support Center (ASC), and must submit the **\$80.00** biometrics services fee
- B. TPS applicants under 14 years of age who are not filing for an EAD are exempt from biometrics collection and the associated biometrics fee.
- C. USCIS may, in its discretion, waive the collection of certain biometrics such as fingerprints and signatures.

### Where To File.

The USCIS office having jurisdiction over your place of residence will accept this application, either in person or through the mail, or both. For filing instructions, please inquire by calling the USCIS National Customer Service Center at **1-800-375-5283**.

### Photographs.

- A. **If you are filing for a reentry permit or a refugee travel document, or if you are in the United States and filing for an advance parole document:**

You **must** submit two identical color photographs of yourself taken within 30 days of the filing of this application. The photos must have a white to off-white background, be printed on thin paper with a glossy finish, and be unmounted and unretouched.

Passport-style photos must be 2" x 2." The photos must be in color with full face, frontal view on a white to off-white background. Head height should measure 1" to 1 3/8" from top of hair to bottom of chin, and eye height is between 1 1/8" to 1 3/8" from bottom of photo. Your head must be bare unless you are wearing a headdress as required by a religious order of which you are a member. Using pencil or felt pen, lightly print your name and Alien Receipt Number on the back of the photo.

## What Is the Filing Fee.

1. An initial (i.e., first-time) applicant must submit:
  - A. A **\$50.00** application fee for the Form I-821; and
  - B. A **\$80.00** fee for biometric services, including fingerprints, photograph and signature, if required. (See **No. 7**, Will TPS Applicants Need to Provide Fingerprints and Photographs?); and
  - C. A **\$340.00** fee for the Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, if you are between the ages of 14 and 64 years and seeking employment.
2. An applicant for TPS re-registration or renewal of temporary treatment benefits must submit:
  - A. A **\$80.00** fee for biometric services, including fingerprints, photograph and signature, if required, and
  - B. A **\$340.00** fee for the Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, if you wish to apply for employment authorization.

The check or money order must be drawn on a bank or other financial institution located in the United States and must be payable in U.S. currency; and

Make the check or money order payable to **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**, unless:

- A. If you live in Guam and are filing your petition there, make it payable to **Treasurer, Guam**.
- B. If you live in the U.S. Virgin Islands and are filing your petition there, make it payable to **Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands**.

**NOTE:** Please spell out U.S. Department of Homeland Security; do not use the initials "USDHS" or "DHS."

**Notice to Those Making Payment by Check.** If you send us a check, it will be converted into an electronic funds transfer (EFT). This means we will copy your check and use the account information on it to electronically debit your account for the amount of the check. The debit from your account will usually take 24 hours, and will be shown on your regular account statement.

You will not receive your original check back. We will destroy your original check, but we will keep a copy of it. If the EFT cannot be processed for technical reasons, you authorize us to process the copy in place of your original check. If the EFT cannot be completed because of insufficient funds, we may try to make the transfer up to two times.

## How to Check If the Fees Are Correct.

The form and biometric fees on this form are current as of the edition date appearing in the lower right corner of this page. However, because USCIS fees change periodically, you can verify if the fees are correct by following one of the steps below:

1. Visit our website at **www.uscis.gov**, select "Immigration Forms" and check the appropriate fee;
2. Review the Fee Schedule included in your form package, if you called us to request the form or
3. Telephone our National Customer Service Center at **1-800-375-5283** and ask for the fee information.

**NOTE:** If your Form I-821 requires payment of a biometric service fee for USCIS to take your fingerprints, photograph and/or signature, you can use the same procedure to obtain the correct biometric fee.

## Are You Also Required to File Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization?

Yes. Each applicant, regardless of age, must also submit a completed Form I-765, even if employment authorization is not being requested.

If your application for TPS is granted and you want to travel outside the United States and return, you must request advance parole from USCIS by filing a Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, with the appropriate USCIS office. A Form I-512 travel document will be issued to you if your request is granted.

## Address Changes.

If you change your address and you have an application or petition pending with USCIS, you may change your address on-line at **www.uscis.gov**, click on "Change your address with USCIS" and follow the prompts or by completing and mailing Form AR-11, Alien's Change of Address Card, to:

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Change of Address  
P.O. Box 7134  
London, KY 40742-7134**

For commercial overnight or fast freight services only, mail to:

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Change of Address  
1084-I South Laurel Road  
London, KY 40744**

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## Processing Information.

**Any Form I-821 that is not signed or accompanied by the correct fee, will be rejected with a notice that the Form I-821 is deficient.** You may correct the deficiency and resubmit the Form I-821. An application or petition is not considered properly filed until accepted by USCIS.

**Initial processing.** Once a Form I-821 has been accepted, it will be checked for completeness, including submission of the required initial evidence. If you do not completely fill out the form, or file it without required initial evidence, you will not establish a basis for eligibility and we may deny your Form I-821.

**Requests for more information or interview.** We may request more information or evidence, or we may request that you appear at a USCIS office for an interview. We may also request that you submit the originals of any copy. We will return these originals when they are no longer required.

**Decision.** The decision on a Form I-821 involves a determination of whether you have established eligibility for the requested benefit. You will be notified of the decision in writing.

## USCIS Forms and Information.

To order USCIS forms, call our toll-free number at **1-800-870-3676**. You can also get USCIS forms and information on immigration laws, regulations and procedures by telephoning our National Customer Service Center at **1-800-375-5283** or visiting our internet website at **www.uscis.gov**.

As an alternative to waiting in line for assistance at your local USCIS office, you can now schedule an appointment through our internet-based system, **InfoPass**. To access the system, visit our website. Use the **InfoPass** appointment scheduler and follow the screen prompts to set up your appointment. **InfoPass** generates an electronic appointment notice that appears on the screen.

## Penalties.

If you knowingly and willfully falsify or conceal a material fact or submit a false document with this Form I-821, we will deny the Form I-821 and may deny any other immigration benefit.

In addition, you will face severe penalties provided by law and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

## Privacy Act Notice.

We ask for the information on this form, and associated evidence, to determine if you have established eligibility for the immigration benefit for which you are filing. Our legal right to ask for this information can be found in the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended. We may provide this information to other government agencies. Failure to provide this information, and any requested evidence, may delay a final decision or result in denial of your Form I-821.

## Paperwork Reduction Act.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor an information collection and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated at 1 hour and 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, completing and submitting the form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Regulatory Management Division, 111 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., 3rd Floor, Suite 3008, Washington, DC 20529. OMB No. 1615-0043. **Do not mail your application to this address.**