

**Request for Recognition of a Non-Profit Religious,  
Charitable, Social Service, or Similar Organization**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**PREPARATION OF APPLICATION:**

To apply for Recognition of a Non-Profit Religious, Charitable, Social Service, or Similar Organization under 8 C.F.R. § 1292, you must fully and accurately answer all questions on the attached Form EOIR-31. This form must be signed and submitted by an officer or individual authorized to act for the organization. A **separate** Form EOIR-31 must be filed for **each** branch office of an organization seeking recognition. In the event of a merger of two organizations that have already been individually accorded recognition, the newly created organization must file a new application for recognition (Form EOIR-31). Your responses must be typed or printed legibly in ink. Do not leave any questions unanswered or blank. As much as possible answer all questions directly on the form. If there is no room to respond fully to a question, please continue your response on an additional sheet of paper. Please indicate the number of the question being answered next to your response on the additional sheet of paper.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

You should submit documentary evidence to establish your organization's eligibility for recognition. Failure to submit all supporting documentation may result in the denial of your application.

**RECOGNITION IS NOT ACCREDITATION:**

Recognition, if granted, does not provide automatic accreditation to the organization's employees or associates. A recognized organization may seek from the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) accreditation of particular employees or associates by requesting either full accreditation (allowing appearances before the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration Courts, and the BIA) or partial accreditation (allowing appearances before DHS only) for such persons. **There is an Optional Form EOIR-31A to apply for accreditation** ~~There is no EOIR form for accreditation requests;~~ rather, or an organization may **request accreditation** ~~make such requests~~ on organizational letterhead, supported by documentary evidence, establishing that each proposed representative is of good moral character and meets the requirements of 8 C.F.R. § 1292.2(d). Accreditation ~~requests~~ may be **requested** ~~made~~ simultaneously with or subsequent to the filing of this recognition application (Form EOIR-31). We caution that failure to demonstrate availability of staff with adequate knowledge and experience in immigration law and procedure may result in the disapproval of the recognition application.

Please indicate on this form whether a simultaneous request for accreditation of an individual is being submitted. If so, please list the name of the proposed representative and the type of accreditation being sought (full or partial). The request for accreditation should include the following supporting documents: resume and certificates of training, letters of recommendation and evidence of advocacy and research skills (if seeking full accreditation).

**WHERE TO FILE:**

This application and all supporting documents must be filed with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA):

R&A Coordinator  
Board of Immigration Appeals  
Office of the Chief Clerk  
5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2000  
Falls Church, VA 20530-0001

**PROOF OF SERVICE:**

A complete copy of this application and any request for accreditation as well as all supporting documents must be served on the local District Director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of DHS **and** the local Chief Counsel for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of DHS who have jurisdiction over the area in which the organization is located.



# PROOF OF SERVICE

(You Must Complete Both)

I \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name),  
mailed or delivered a copy of this Form EOIR-31 and  
its attachments to the local District Director for USCIS  
of DHS on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date - mm/dd/yyyy)  
at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number and Street)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, ZIP Code)

**SIGN**  
**HERE X**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)  
mailed or delivered a copy of this Form EOIR-31 and  
its attachments to the local Chief Counsel for ICE  
of DHS on \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date - mm/dd/yyyy)  
at \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number and Street)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, ZIP Code)

**SIGN**  
**HERE X**

## HAVE YOU SUBMITTED?

- Completed Form EOIR-31, including proof of service
- Proof of nonprofit status (IRS document)
- Copy of Charter, Constitution, By-Laws and/or Articles of Incorporation
- Fee schedule for all immigration services provided and membership dues, if applicable
- List of law library contents and/or online resources
- Funding sources and budget
- Organizational chart and a description of the specific immigration legal services the organization will provide
- Staff resumes, certificates of training, letters of recommendation and evidence of advocacy and research skills
- Requests for accreditation with supporting documentation, if applicable
- Written confirmation of any agreement(s) made to consult with other nonprofit organization(s) or private attorney(s) on a pro bono basis in more complicated cases or other acceptable arrangements to demonstrate adequate knowledge and experience in immigration law and procedure. *Matter of EAC, Inc.* (Recognition) 24 I&N Dec 556 (BIA 2008)
- Copy of BIA decision on prior recognition application, if applicable

For more information about recognized organizations, visit the EOIR website at <http://www.justice.gov/eoir>

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. The estimated average time to review the form, gather necessary materials, complete the form, and assemble the attachments is 2 hours. If you have comments regarding the accuracy of this estimate, or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions reducing this burden, you may write to the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Office of the General Counsel, 5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2600, Falls Church, Virginia 22041.

The information is authorized by 8 U.S.C. §§ 1103, 1229a, 1362 and 8 C.F.R. 1292.2 in order to request recognition of a non-profit religious, charitable, social service or similar organization. The information you provide is mandatory and required to obtain recognition. Failure to provide the requested information may result in denial of your request. EOIR may share this information with others in accordance with approved routine uses described in BIA-002, Roster of Organizations and their Accredited Representatives Recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals.