

January 9, 2023

Richard Revesz, Administrator
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget

Dear Administrator Revesz:

The Department of State requests that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approve changes to the previously approved Family Reunification Assistance for Afghan Parolees with immediate family members who are outside of the United States, Form DS-4317, OMB Control Number 1405-0251, by January 10, 2023.

The points below are a summary of the changes from the previously approved version:

1. Emphasizes that the use of the form is intended only for Afghan nationals.
2. Clarifies the purpose of the form with simplified language and removes unnecessary information.
3. Updates the routine uses and disclosure sections with general language that specifies how an applicant's information may be used to qualify for departure assistance of eligible family members.
4. Retains, but relocates, information about polygamous marriages to another section of the form.
5. Elaborates that the use of other U.S. Government-provided information that may have been provided to the applicant may assist the U.S. Government in validating an applicant's parole status for eligibility purposes.
6. Rewords the post-submission section to make the language consistent with other edits in the form.
7. Minor style and grammatical revisions for general readability.

The Department does not anticipate any change in the burden for this information collection because of these edits.

As with the original request, the Department has determined that:

1. This collection is needed prior to the expiration of time periods allowed under 5 CFR part 1320. It is the policy of the United States to expeditiously reunite families who were separated during the withdrawal from Afghanistan. More immediate collection of this information will enable the Department to more quickly estimate of how many Afghans may be eligible for reunification support and prepare them for relocation to an overseas processing location.
2. This collection is essential to the mission of the Department of State, which has committed to upholding promises made to reunite these separated families. Parolee cases only reach the Department through advocacy groups and resettlement agencies. This delays case identification and places an unnecessary requirement upon the parolee whereas a public application-based process can more consistently reach every parolee, regardless of their ability to access an external advocate for support.
3. Under the current method of application, the burden is disproportionately shifted to the public to identify eligible cases and forward this information to the Department of State. An immediately available, public-facing application is the least burdensome and cost-effective method to relieve advocacy groups from identifying, collecting, and transmitting this information to the Department.
4. The normal PRA clearance procedures are likely to cause public harm, since the delay caused by such procedures will significantly impair the ability of the Department of State to expeditiously relocate eligible families from Afghanistan amid ongoing unrest, famine, violence, and other adverse conditions. This ongoing separation from their families continues to adversely impact their well-being. Expeditiously collecting the requested information and reuniting these families serves the public's interest.

Sincerely,



Constance C. Arvis
Acting Coordinator for Afghan Relocation
Efforts
Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs