

FAQ: My I-129 Petition Has Been Filed, Now What?

Congratulations and thank you for your partnership!

Your petition has been filed with USCIS—another important step forward in your immigration journey. This FAQ answers common questions about what happens next.

1. What happens after my petition is filed?

USCIS assigns your petition to a Service Center based on case type and location. Within 1–3 weeks, you (and your attorney) will receive an official Receipt Notice.

The Service Center will review your case and may: Approve the petition, issue a Request for Evidence (RFE) or Notice of Intent to Deny (NOID and in rare cases, Deny the petition

Sometimes, USCIS transfers cases between Service Centers to balance workloads. If that occurs, we'll receive a notice confirming the transfer, and your case will continue without delay.

2. How long will it take for USCIS to process my case?

Processing times vary by case type and Service Center, and USCIS generally reviews cases in the order received.

For the latest estimates, visit egov.uscis.gov/processing-times. You'll need your form type and the Service Center listed on your receipt number. The first three letters of your receipt show the Service Center:

EAC – Vermont

LIN – Nebraska

WAC – California

SRC – Texas

****Note that the processing times on the website are subject to change.***

3. Can I accelerate the process?

***This material is not intended to substitute as legal advice.**

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Sometimes. For certain employment-based petitions, USCIS offers premium processing—for an additional fee, you receive an accelerated review (currently 15–45 business days, depending on the case).

Premium processing is a strategic, case-by-case decision. It can be requested at filing or added later, but USCIS may suspend it at times.

4. **How can I check the status of my case?**

You can check your case status online at uscis.gov using your receipt number (found in the top left corner of your USCIS Receipt Notice).

Each petition or application has its own unique number—for example, employment-based adjustment cases may have separate numbers for Forms I-140, I-485, I-765, and I-131.

If no information appears, you can submit an online inquiry or call USCIS Customer Service at 1-800-375-5283.

5. **Can USCIS request additional evidence?**

Yes. Requests for Evidence (RFEs) are increasingly common due to heightened scrutiny and varying practices at USCIS Service Centers.

An RFE means USCIS wants more information before deciding—sometimes even on strong petitions. If this happens in your case, our team will contact you promptly to strategize and prepare a thorough response.

6. **What are the “Do’s and Don’t” while the case is pending?**

✦ Do file an address change

- Foreign nationals in the U.S. must notify USCIS within **10 days** of moving.
- The easiest way is online at: [USCIS Change of Address](#).
- USCIS will only send notices to your last reported address. Missing an appointment because you didn’t update your address is **not excused**.

⊗ **Don’t rely on mail forwarding**

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- USCIS notices are **not guaranteed** to be forwarded by the Postal Service. Always update your address directly with USCIS.

✦ **Be cautious with international travel**

- Traveling abroad while a change or extension of status is pending may be seen by USCIS as abandoning your case. Be proactive and seek guidance before making any travel plans.
- Before traveling, confirm:
 - Your visa stamp matches your current status (e.g., H-1B stamp for H-1B status).
 - Your passport is valid for at least six months.
 - You do not have a pending immigration filing that travel could disrupt.
- Be prepared for unexpected delays re-entering the U.S.—stay flexible and plan ahead.

[Additional Resources](#)

Visit our [Resource Hub](#) and explore our [YouTube Channel](#) for additional valuable insights and information. **Subscribe to our** [Newsletter](#) to stay informed on the latest news.

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