

FAQs on KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER

1 WHAT IS KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER?

It is a process that allows certain noncitizen spouses and stepchildren of U.S. citizens to apply for parole in place to enable them to apply for lawful permanent resident status without having to be separated from their families by leaving the United States for processing.

2 WHICH FORM SHOULD I FILE TO APPLY FOR KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER?

Requestors must file Form I-131F, Application for Parole in Place for Certain Noncitizen Spouses and Stepchildren of U.S. Citizens, under this process. The form can only be filed online.

3 IS THERE A FEE?

The fee is \$580. No fee waivers or fee exemptions are available for this process at this time.

4 IF GRANTED, HOW LONG WILL MY PAROLE PERIOD LAST?

Your parole period will be valid as of the date USCIS approves your Form I-131F and will expire 3 years from that date. However, parole terminates automatically if you depart the United States. Parole may also be terminated at any time in DHS's discretion upon a determination that parole is no longer warranted, for example, following the commission of criminal conduct.

5 WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER?

Please check this for detailed info on the criteria: [Qualifications](#). Meeting the criteria would not guarantee acceptance; it's a case-to-case basis.



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6 IF I MEET THE CRITERIA LISTED ABOVE, WILL I BE GUARANTEED TO HAVE MY FORM I-131F APPROVED UNDER THIS PROCESS?

No. All requests under this process are considered on a case-by-case basis in the exercise of discretion, taking into account the totality of the circumstances of each individual request and evaluating whether parole is warranted as a matter of discretion for significant public benefit or urgent humanitarian reasons.

7 IF USCIS DENIES MY REQUEST, WILL I BE PLACED IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS?

USCIS will not issue a Notice to Appear (NTA) or refer your case to ICE for possible enforcement action solely based on our denial. USCIS maintains discretion to issue an NTA or refer the case to ICE for possible enforcement action consistent with governing policies and practices.

8 IF I ENTERED THE UNITED STATES ON A NONIMMIGRANT VISA OR WAS ADMITTED IN ANOTHER STATUS AND OVERSTAYED, AM I ELIGIBLE FOR KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER?

No. Parole in place is only available to an “applicant for admission,” which the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) defines, in relevant part, as a noncitizen “present in the United States who has not been admitted.” This means that noncitizens who were last admitted on valid nonimmigrant visas or were admitted in another status but have remained in the United States beyond their authorized period of stay cannot request parole in place under this process.



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