

How to Check the Status of an Immigration Application And What to Do if It Is Taking Too Long

How do I check the status of a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) application?

Check your case status here: <https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/landing.do>, or by calling 1-800-375-5283. You need your receipt number (a 13-character identifier on the Receipt Notice you got after filing your application).

How long does an application normally take?

Check the normal processing times for your type of application here:

<https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times>. You need to know which office is handling your case and the date USCIS received your case. Both are on the Receipt Notice you got after filing your application. Note: the office handling your case might not be the one that's closest to you!

What if my application is taking longer than normal?

If the above link for normal processing times shows that your application is taking longer than the normal processing time, you can submit an "inquiry" (a question) here: <https://egov.uscis.gov/e-request/displayONPTForm.do?entryPoint=init&sroPageType=onpt>.

You will need 1) your receipt number (a 13-character identifier on the Receipt Notice you got after filing your application), 2) your A-number if you have one, 3) the date you filed your application (this is on the Receipt Notice), 4) the type of application or petition filed, and 5) an email address.

I have a special situation. Can I speed up my application?

You can request that USCIS "expedite" (or speed up) your application if one of these situations applies to you:

- 1) Severe financial loss to a company or person, as long as the urgency is not due to your delay in submitting the application or responding to requests for evidence;
- 2) Urgent humanitarian reasons;
- 3) Compelling U.S. government interests; or
- 4) Clear USCIS error.

For example, one reason might be a medical need that is related to your immigration application, which would be an "urgent humanitarian" reason and perhaps also a "severe financial loss" reason. It is very important that you gather evidence for the "expedite" request, like a letter from a doctor. For "severe financial loss", you must include documents showing the financial loss and showing that you will not be able to withstand that loss.

To make an "expedite" request, call 1-800-375-5283. Make sure you have your Receipt Number (13-character identifier on your Receipt Notice). Use the word "expedite" and explain your situation, including which "expedite" reason applies. The person on the phone will then give you further instructions for where to send your evidence. For more information on expedite requests: <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/forms-information/how-make-expedite-request>.

What if I moved after filing my application?

You need to update your address with USCIS here: <https://egov.uscis.gov/coa/displayCOAForm.do>. You are required to do this within 10 days of moving. It's best to do this as soon as possible!