



September 16, 2021

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## Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Refugee and Asylee Adjustment of Status Interview Criteria and Guidelines

### Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is updating guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) regarding interview criteria for asylee and refugee adjustment of status applicants.

### Background

On December 15, 2020, USCIS revised the interview criteria for asylee and refugee adjustment of status applications. After evaluating the criteria during implementation, USCIS is further revising the criteria that applies when an officer determines whether to refer an asylee or refugee adjustment applicant for an interview. The decision to interview an applicant is still made on a case-by-case basis.<sup>1</sup> Interviews are generally required when an officer is unable to confirm identity or admissibility based solely on the immigration records available.

This update, contained in Volume 7 of the Policy Manual, is effective immediately. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance.

### Policy Highlights

- Updates criteria for referring asylee and refugee adjustment applicants for interview, including incorporating criteria relating to a principal applicant's underlying asylum claim into broader considerations.

### Citation

Volume 7: Adjustment of Status, Part L, Refugee Adjustment, Chapter 5, Adjudication Procedures [[7 USCIS-PM L.5](#)]; and Part M, Asylee Adjustment, Chapter 5, Adjudication Procedures [[7 USCIS-PM M.5](#)].

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<sup>1</sup> See [8 CFR 209.1\(d\)](#) and [8 CFR 209.2\(e\)](#).