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Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Refugee and Asylee Adjustment of Status Interview Criteria

Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is issuing policy guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) to provide clarification on the interview criteria for aliens who are asylees or refugees and applying for adjustment of status.

Background

USCIS determines, on a case-by-case basis, whether an interview of an alien who is a refugee or an asylee applying for adjustment of status is necessary to determine admissibility for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status.¹ Interviews are generally required when an officer is unable to confirm identity or admissibility based solely on the immigration records available.

USCIS is re-establishing a uniform baseline for screening and vetting standards and is clarifying the interview criteria for adjustment of status applications filed by aliens who are refugees, asylees, or their derivative family members. This will help ensure program integrity and improve the detection of fraud, misrepresentation, national security threats, and public safety risks.

This guidance, contained in Volume 7 of the Policy Manual, is effective immediately and applies to adjustment of status applications pending or filed on or after the publication date. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance.

Policy Highlights

- Clarifies interview criteria for an alien who is an asylee or a refugee applying adjustment of status cases.

Summary of Changes

Affected Section: Volume 7 > Part L > Chapter 5 > Section B, Interview Criteria

- Revises bulleted list and last paragraph.

Affected Section: Volume 7 > Part M > Chapter 5 > Section B, Interview Criteria

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

- Revises bulleted list and last paragraph.

USCIS may also make other minor technical, stylistic, and conforming changes consistent with this update.

Citation

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