



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS Policy Manual

Current as of May 21, 2020

Volume 1 - General Policies and Procedures

Part E - Adjudications

In May 2020, USCIS retired its Adjudicator’s Field Manual (AFM), a collection of our immigration policies and procedures. We are working quickly to update and incorporate all of the AFM content into the USCIS Policy Manual, the agency’s centralized online repository for immigration policies. Until then, we have moved any remaining AFM content to its corresponding Policy Manual Part. To the extent that a provision in the Policy Manual conflicts with remaining AFM content or Policy Memoranda, the updated information in the Policy Manual prevails. If you have questions or concerns about any discrepancies among these resources, contact USCISPolicyManual@uscis.dhs.gov.

[AFM Chapter 10 - An Overview of the Adjudication Process \(External\)](#) (PDF, 3.01 MB).

[AFM Chapter 11 - Evidence \(External\)](#) (PDF, 316 KB).

[AFM Chapter 15 - Interview Techniques \(External\)](#) (PDF, 424 KB).

Legal Authorities

[44 U.S.C. 31](#) - Federal Records Act of 1950, as amended - Records management by federal agencies

[5 U.S.C. 552](#) - Freedom of Information Act - Public information; agency rules, opinions, orders, records, and proceedings

[5 U.S.C. 552a](#) - Privacy Act of 1974, as amended - Records maintained on individuals

[8 CFR 103.2](#) - Submission and adjudication of benefit requests

[Delegation of Authority 0105.1](#) - Delegation to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

[INA 103, 8 CFR 103](#) - Powers and duties of the Secretary, the Under Secretary, and the Attorney General

[INA 291](#) - Burden of proof upon alien

[Pub. L. 107-296](#) - Homeland Security Act of 2002

Forms

No forms available at this time.

Appendices

Sample Language for Healthcare Certification

Appendix: Sample Language for Healthcare Certification

Healthcare Certification^[1]

[Date]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a licensed [counselor, nurse practitioner, physician, physician assistant, psychologist, social worker, or therapist], and I have treated or evaluated [patient's name] in relation to [patient's name]'s gender identity. In my professional opinion, [patient's name]'s gender identity is consistent with a designation of [male or female].

Patient's Information:

Full Name:

Date of Birth:

Healthcare Professional's Information:

Full Name:

Organization (if any):

Address:

Phone Number:

License Type: [counselor, nurse practitioner, physician, physician assistant, psychologist, social worker, or therapist]

License Number:

Issuing State, Country, or other Jurisdiction of License:

Sincerely,

[Healthcare Professional's Signature]

[Healthcare Professional's Printed Name]

Footnote

1. [1] This format and language is one example of an acceptable healthcare certification letter; officers should accept other language and formats as long as they satisfy the requirements set out in Chapter 5, Verification of Identifying Information, Section C, Personal Information, Subsection 2, Gender [1 USCIS-PM E.5(B)(2)].

Technical Update - Moving the Adjudicator's Field Manual Content into the USCIS Policy Manual

May 21, 2020

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is updating and incorporating relevant Adjudicator's Field Manual (AFM) content into the USCIS Policy Manual. As that process is ongoing, USCIS has moved any remaining AFM content to its corresponding USCIS Policy Manual Part, in PDF format, until relevant AFM content has been properly incorporated into the USCIS Policy Manual. To the extent that a provision in the USCIS Policy Manual conflicts with remaining AFM content or Policy Memoranda, the updated information in the USCIS Policy Manual prevails. To find remaining AFM content, see the [crosswalk](#) between the AFM and the Policy Manual.

[Read More](#)

AFFECTED SECTIONS

[1 USCIS-PM - Volume 1 - General Policies and Procedures](#)

[2 USCIS-PM - Volume 2 - Nonimmigrants](#)

[3 USCIS-PM - Volume 3 - Humanitarian Protection and Parole](#)

[4 USCIS-PM - Volume 4 - Refugees and Asylees](#)

[5 USCIS-PM - Volume 5 - International Orphans and Adoptees](#)

[6 USCIS-PM - Volume 6 - Immigrants](#)

[7 USCIS-PM - Volume 7 - Adjustment of Status](#)

[8 USCIS-PM - Volume 8 - Admissibility](#)

[9 USCIS-PM - Volume 9 - Waivers and Other Forms of Relief](#)

[11 USCIS-PM - Volume 11 - Travel and Identity Documents](#)

[12 USCIS-PM - Volume 12 - Citizenship and Naturalization](#)

Technical Update - Incorporating Existing Guidance into the Policy Manual

May 15, 2020

This technical update is part of an initiative to move existing policy guidance from the Adjudicator's Field Manual (AFM) into the Policy Manual. This update does not make major substantive changes but consolidates and incorporates existing AFM guidance into the Policy Manual, streamlining USCIS' immigration policy while removing obsolete information. This guidance replaces Chapters 1, 3.4, 10.2, 10.3(a), 10.3(c), 10.3(e), 10.3(i), 10.4, 10.22, 11.1(c), 13, 14, 17, 23.8, 31.7, 33.10, 34.5, 35, 41.6, 42, 44, 56.1, 56.3, 56.4, 62, 81, 82, 83.1, 83.2, and 83.3 of the AFM, related appendices, and policy memoranda.

[Read More](#)

AFFECTED SECTIONS

[1 USCIS-PM E - Part E - Adjudications](#)

[2 USCIS-PM O - Part O - Religious Workers \(R\)](#)

[7 USCIS-PM O.5 - Chapter 5 - Other Special Laws](#)

Technical Update - Replacing the Term “Foreign National”

October 08, 2019

This technical update replaces all instances of the term “foreign national” with “alien” throughout the Policy Manual as used to refer to a person who meets the definition provided in INA 101(a)(3) [“any person not a citizen or national of the United States”].

[Read More](#)

AFFECTED SECTIONS

[1 USCIS-PM - Volume 1 - General Policies and Procedures](#)

[2 USCIS-PM - Volume 2 - Nonimmigrants](#)

[6 USCIS-PM - Volume 6 - Immigrants](#)

[7 USCIS-PM - Volume 7 - Adjustment of Status](#)

[8 USCIS-PM - Volume 8 - Admissibility](#)

[9 USCIS-PM - Volume 9 - Waivers and Other Forms of Relief](#)

[10 USCIS-PM - Volume 10 - Employment Authorization](#)

[11 USCIS-PM - Volume 11 - Travel and Identity Documents](#)

[12 USCIS-PM - Volume 12 - Citizenship and Naturalization](#)

- ⇒ [Chapter 1 - Purpose and Background](#)
- ⇒ [Chapter 2 - Record of Proceeding](#)
- ⇒ [Chapter 3 - Jurisdiction](#)
- ⇒ [Chapter 4 - Burden and Standards of Proof](#)
- ⇒ [Chapter 5 - Verification of Identifying Information](#)

