



READ THIS BEFORE YOU TAKE LEGAL ADVICE

If you have a case in immigration court, only take legal advice from:

- ◆ **a licensed attorney**

An “attorney” is a person who has a valid license from a state to practice law.

- ◆ **an accredited representative**

An “accredited representative” is an individual who works with a recognized organization and has been given permission by the United States Government to help people in immigration court. A “recognized organization” is a nonprofit, religious, charitable, social service, or similar organization that has been given permission by the United States Government to help people in immigration court.

If someone claims to be an attorney and you want to know if that person is allowed to represent you in immigration court:

- ◆ Ask in what state(s) he or she is licensed to practice law.
- ◆ Call the office that licenses attorneys in that state (this is usually the “state bar association” or the supreme court of that state) and ask that office if the attorney has a bar number and is in “good standing.”
- ◆ Go to the EOIR Web site at www.justice.gov/eoir/discipline.htm to find out who is *not* permitted to represent you in immigration court.

If someone claims to be an accredited representative and you want to know if that person is allowed to represent you in immigration court, go to the EOIR Web site at www.justice.gov/eoir/can-someone-represent-you and select “List of Accredited Representatives” or call (703) 305-9029 for information.

If you think you have been a victim of immigration fraud, contact the EOIR Fraud and Abuse Prevention Program at: EOIR.Fraud.Program@usdoj.gov or (703) 305-0470.

Do You Need a Lawyer or Accredited Representative?

Information on How to Find Legal Representation in Immigration Court

The information in this packet was prepared by the U.S. Department of Justice's Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR). It is not intended, nor should it be construed in any way, as legal advice. The information does not extend or limit the jurisdiction of the Immigration Courts as established by law and regulation. Nothing in this packet shall limit the discretion of Immigration Judges to act in accordance with law and regulation.

Do You Need a Lawyer or Accredited Representative?

You have the right to have a lawyer or Department of Justice accredited representative represent you in your immigration proceedings. However, the government will not give you a lawyer or accredited representative. **If you want a lawyer or accredited representative, you must find one on your own and pay for any of the costs.** You should do this *as soon as possible*.

The **ONLY** people who can represent you in immigration court are lawyers and accredited representatives.¹ Notarios, document preparers, immigration consultants, and travel agents are NOT allowed to give you ANY legal advice.

Some nonprofit organizations offer free legal advice and may be able to find a lawyer or accredited representative to represent you for free. The immigration judge will provide you with a list of these organizations. **This list is also available at www.justice.gov/eoir/list-pro-bono-legal-service-providers.**

What is a Lawyer?

A lawyer is generally someone who has a license to practice law before *the immigration courts and other courts of law* in the United States. A lawyer helps you fill out immigration applications, such as an application for asylum. A lawyer may also help collect evidence, prepare you to testify in court, and present your case to the immigration judge for you.

What is a Department of Justice Accredited Representative?

An accredited representative is someone who has a certificate from the U.S. Department of Justice to practice law *only* in the U.S. immigration system. An accredited representative receives training in immigration law and is part of a U.S. nonprofit organization. Like a lawyer, an accredited representative helps you fill out immigration applications, collect evidence, and present your case to the immigration judge.

Can I Represent Myself?

Although you can always represent yourself in your immigration proceedings, the Department of Justice *strongly recommends* that you find a lawyer or accredited representative for your immigration case. If you cannot find a lawyer or accredited representative, you should use the Immigration Court Self-Help Legal Resource Center to familiarize yourself with the immigration system and understand your rights in immigration court. These materials are available in every immigration court and online at www.justice.gov/eoir/self-help-materials. Additional information is available at the Immigration Court Online Resource, which can be accessed at <https://icor.eoir.justice.gov>.

¹ Under certain circumstances, the following people may also provide legal representation: law students and law graduates not yet admitted to the bar, certain accredited officials, and other reputable individuals as defined under section 1292.1 of the Code of Federal Regulations.



SELF-SERVICE TOOLS

 **Login or Create a USCIS Online Account**
myaccount.uscis.gov

 **File Online**
uscis.gov/file-online

 **Need help? Ask Emma**
uscis.gov/emma

 **e-Request**
Ask a question about your case
uscis.gov/e-request

 **Case Status Online**
uscis.gov/casestatus

 **Fee Calculator**
uscis.gov/feecalculator

 **Password and Unlocking Account Help**
[uscis.gov/tools/uscis-tools-and-resources/
password-resets-and-technical-support](https://uscis.gov/tools/uscis-tools-and-resources/password-resets-and-technical-support)

 **Change of Address**
uscis.gov/addresschange

 **Appointments**
my.uscis.gov/appointment

 **Case Processing Times**
uscis.gov/processingtimes

CITIZENSHIP RESOURCES

 **Practice Civics Mobile App**
Download our free civics study app at Google Play or the App Store. Search “USCIS civics test” and make sure USCIS is the developer.

 **Citizenship Resource Center**
uscis.gov/citizenship

 **Naturalization Eligibility Tool**
Check your eligibility and file your N-400
uscis.gov/naturalization-eligibility

 **N-400 Early Filing Calculator**
uscis.gov/forms/uscis-early-filing-calculator

 **Practice Civics Test**
[uscis.gov/citizenship-resource-center/naturalization-
test-and-study-resources/2025-civics-test](https://uscis.gov/citizenship-resource-center/naturalization-test-and-study-resources/2025-civics-test)

LOCATORS

 **Find a Doctor**
my.uscis.gov/findadoctor

 **Class Locator**
my.uscis.gov/findaclass

 **Office Locator**
uscis.gov/about-us/find-a-uscis-office

 **Forms and Fees**
uscis.gov/forms/filing-fees

ONLINE RESOURCES

 **Avoid Scams**
uscis.gov/avoid-scams

 **Multilingual Resource Center**
uscis.gov/multilingual

 **Find Authorized Providers**
[justice.gov/eoir/recognition-
accreditation-roster-reports](https://justice.gov/eoir/recognition-accreditation-roster-reports)

 **Explore My Options**
uscis.gov/explore-my-options

 **E-Verify**
Check work authorization.
e-verify.gov

 **I-9 Central for Employers**
uscis.gov/i-9-central

 **Join a USCIS Presentation**
uscis.gov/outreach

RESEARCH TOOLS

 **Electronic Reading Room**
uscis.gov/electronic-reading-room

 **USCIS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**
[uscis.gov/records/request-records-
through-the-freedom-of-information-
act-or-privacy-act](https://uscis.gov/records/request-records-through-the-freedom-of-information-act-or-privacy-act)

 **Immigration and Citizenship Data**
uscis.gov/immigration-and-citizenship-data

 **USCIS Genealogy**
uscis.gov/genealogy

 **USCIS History Office and Library**
uscis.gov/about-us/our-history

 **Contact Us**
uscis.gov/about-us/contact-us