



Personal Immigration Compliance & Recent Immigration Updates



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**WITH YOU
TODAY**



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Essential Responsibilities and Best Practices for Maintaining Immigration Status

Carrying Proof of Status Documents

U.S. law requires individuals to carry evidence of their immigration status at all times.

Documentation Requirements

PERMANENT RESIDENT

Green Card

H-1B, L-1, O-1, TN VISA HOLDERS

- Passport
- I-94
- I-797 Approval Notice (if applicable)

F-1 OPT HOLDERS

- Passport
- OPT EAD Card
- I-94
- I-20



RECOMMENDATIONS

Carry printed photocopies for day-to-day activities

Carry original documents for domestic travel

Paper copies are preferred over digital copies on your phone



Forms

All Forms ▾

Explore my Options

Filing Guidance ▲

Five Steps to File at the USCIS
Lockbox

Tips for Filing Forms by Mail

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How to Change Your Address

If you have filed an immigration benefit request with USCIS, you must notify USCIS of any changes of address as soon as possible to ensure you receive all correspondence and benefits without delay. Additionally, all aliens in the United States must report a change of address to USCIS within 10 days of moving. This reporting requirement does not apply to A and G visa holders and visa waiver visitors.

We strongly encourage you to submit your change of address through a [USCIS online account](#) as soon as you move.

Changing your address with the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) will not change your address with USCIS and **USPS will not forward your mail from USCIS**. Please update your information with both USCIS and USPS. We

Address Change Reporting

- All individuals must notify U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of any address change within 10 days of moving. This can be done online, via www.uscis.gov/addresschange.
- For pending personal immigration applications (I-765, I-131, I-539, I-485, etc.), ensure this information is included where prompted.

Reporting Changes in Employment



Sponsored visa holders (H-1B, L-1, TN, O-1, etc.)

- Notify Fragomen and HR in advance of any changes to your role.
- It could be related to promotions, work location changes, title changes, or job duties.
- Filing an amendment is required prior to the change occurring.
- These changes may significantly impact green card processes.

F-1 visa holders on OPT or STEM OPT:

Report changes (including job duties or location) to your Designated School Official (DSO) before the change occurs.

4 Consistency in Personal Information



01

Ensure consistency in your job title, job duties, and work location across all materials:

- Immigration filings
- Resumes
- LinkedIn profiles
- Business cards
- Company bios



02

Keep personal information up to date:

Personal information such as your home address should be kept up to date with USCIS



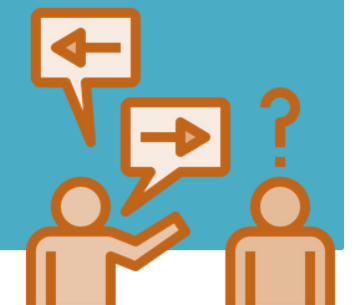
03

Be truthful and complete in disclosures about past arrests or legal issues, even if they seem minor.



04

Avoid inconsistencies to prevent raising concerns and delaying immigration processes.





International Travel Considerations

- **Plan for longer visa processing times** due to increased scrutiny at ports of entry.
- **Be honest, accurate, and prepared** to explain the purpose of your travel and employment status.
- **Contact Fragomen and HR** before booking international travel if you have questions or concerns.

If you have EVER been arrested, check with Fragomen before any travel and ensure that you carry certified copies of the arrest and court records



- **H-1B, L-1, O-1, TN, E Visa Holders:** Passport, Visa Stamp, I-94, 3 Recent Pay Slips, I-797 Approval Notice (if applicable), EVL.
- **F-1/J-1 Visa Holders:** Passport, Visa Stamp, I-94, I-20, DS-2019, EAD Card (if applicable), 3 Recent Pay Slips, EVL.

Lawful Permanent Residents (Green Card Holders)

What Is Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) Status?

LPR status is a durable status that allows a person to permanently live and work in the United States as long as they maintain that status. LPRs have protections under U.S. laws. LPRs are issued U.S. green cards. Once any conditions* are removed, permanent residence does not expire if maintained.

If LPRs obey the law and demonstrate an intent to remain in the United States, they can remain permanent residents indefinitely.

What Responsibilities Do LPRs Have?

LPRs must follow all federal, state, and local laws and be sure to:



Maintain U.S. residence



File + pay taxes as a U.S. resident



Register for selective service (men 18-25)



Carry their green card



Update USCIS on address changes

Minor criminal offenses can cause big problems. LPRs should comply with all laws, including laws about traffic, drugs, alcohol, violence, and theft.

Can Someone Lose Their Permanent Residence?

Permanent residence can be lost if a person has 1) committed certain crimes, 2) obtained the status fraudulently, or 3) is determined to have abandoned permanent residence by remaining outside of the United States for too long.**



In the rare circumstances where the U.S. government wants to rescind or revoke an LPR's green card, the LPR is entitled to **due process and a hearing before an immigration judge** prior to a final determination. Additionally, LPRs who want to maintain the status should **never execute a Form I-407** when returning to the United States since doing so means "voluntarily" agreeing to abandon the status.

Key Risk Considerations

Any criminal offense, arrest, or summons even if old or dismissed).



Social media and electronic devices may be checked.



Staying abroad 180+ days without a reentry permit can lead to scrutiny or determination of abandonment.



LPRs with any risk factors should consult an immigration attorney before traveling abroad or seeking naturalization. Pre-planning is key to maintaining LPR status.

When dealing with immigration officials, always be polite, calm, and truthful. Do NOT sign documents without understanding them.

Permanent Resident - Travel Advisory

If you are a U.S. permanent resident and planning extended travel abroad, please consult Fragomen in advance. A Re-entry Permit may be required before departure.

✓ What is a Re-Entry Permit?

- A travel document (Form I-131) issued by USCIS to LPRs
- Helps preserve permanent resident status during extended travel abroad

✈ When is it Needed?

- For trips **lasting more than 1 year but less than 2 years**
- Strongly recommended for trips **over 6 months**, especially if frequent

🛡 Benefits

- Avoids presumption of abandonment of permanent resident status
- Serves as a valid travel document in lieu of a passport from some countries
- Helps facilitate re-entry into the U.S.

📄 Application Basics

- **Form I-131** (Application for Travel Document)
- Must apply **while physically present in the U.S.**
- USCIS **biometrics required** (typically within weeks of filing)
- Valid for **up to 2 years – cannot be extended**, but can be re-applied for

⚠ Important Notes

- Does **not guarantee** re-entry – inspection at U.S. port of entry still applies
- Not a solution for maintaining LPR status while living abroad permanently
- Multiple consecutive permits may raise scrutiny

****Maintain strong ties to the U.S. and return before being outside of the U.S. for more than six months at a time****

✓ Key Update: Dual Citizenship Now Allowed

- As of 2024, Germany permits dual citizenship in most cases
- German nationals can retain their citizenship when naturalizing in the U.S.

📄 Applying for U.S. Citizenship (Form N-400)

- Must be a **Lawful Permanent Resident (Green Card holder)** for:
 - **5 years**, or
 - **3 years** if married to a U.S. citizen
- Must meet:
 - Continuous residence and physical presence requirements
 - Good moral character
 - English language and U.S. civics knowledge

🌐 Why This Matters for German Nationals

- Historically, acquiring U.S. citizenship meant **losing German nationality**
- Encourages **greater cross-border mobility, protections, and opportunity**

🏠 Continuous Residence

- Refers to maintaining your primary **residence in the U.S.** over the required period (typically **5 or 3 years**)
- **Absences of 6+ months** may break continuous residence unless properly explained
- **Absences of 1 year or more** generally **break** continuous residence automatically (unless special exceptions apply, like for certain U.S. government or company employees)
- Intent to return and ties to the U.S. (job, home, family) are critical

📅 Physical Presence

- Means the actual **number of days you were physically present in the U.S.**
- You must be physically in the U.S. for **at least half** of the required period:
 - **At least 913 days** in the last 5 years, or
 - **At least 548 days** in the last 3 years (if applying based on marriage to a U.S. citizen)

🔧 Tips & Considerations

- Confirm eligibility before filing
- Review any military service or tax obligations in Germany
- Consider implications for **German and U.S. tax residency and reporting**

U.S. Driver's License Requirement

- **Obtain a state-issued driver's license** based on the requirements of your state of residence if you drive in the U.S.
- **International licenses** are not a long-term substitute.

12 Registration Requirements

Immediate Action Needed

- Subject to the rule on **April 11** must **register immediately**

Key Requirement

- Certain foreign nationals must **register online**, undergo **biometrics**, and complete a **background check**

Consequences for Noncompliance

- **Fines and criminal penalties**
- Those with **criminal history** or **unlawful entry** should **consult an attorney**



Who Is Already Registered?

- Most foreign nationals with:
 - U.S. visa, green card, I-94, EAD, or border crossing card
- Must still carry documents and report address changes within 10 days

Who Must Register?

1. Visa-exempt Canadians here 30+ days without I-94
2. Foreign nationals here 30+ days who turned 14 while in the U.S.
3. Foreign nationals who entered without inspection and are here 30+ days

Summary

Stay Informed

Subscribe to Fragomen's Client Alerts to stay up-to-date on the latest developments and changes in U.S. immigration law.

(www.fragomen.com/insights/index.html)

Compliance

Your compliance with these requirements is essential for maintaining your immigration status.

Questions and Support

If you have any questions, please reach out to Fragomen.



Visas & Travel

- **E-1 Visa:** No major changes for German E-1 visa holders or applicants at this time.
- **Visa Renewals (J-1/J-2):** Expired visa with valid status (DS-2019) need a new visa to travel internationally, but visa renewal risks should be assessed with legal counsel.
- **ESTA Denials:** If denied, answer truthfully on future visa applications. Consider applying for a B-1/B-2 visa.
- **F-1 & OPT:** Maintain status and carry proof. Re-entry with clear F-1/OPT status is generally fine.
- **L-1 & H-1B Reentry:** Check for recent issues and bring complete documentation.
- **Reentry Permits:** You must apply while physically present in the U.S. Expired permits can't be renewed from abroad.

Green Card Holders

- **Extended Absences:** Risk to permanent resident status if outside U.S. too long. Reentry permits and ties to U.S. are key.
- **Renewal Risks:** Clean record = low risk. But prepare for delays and scrutiny.
- **Study Abroad & Reentry:** Apply for a reentry permit in advance.
- **Detention at Border:** Ask for a lawyer or consulate. Keep emergency contact info.
- **Global Entry Holders:** No changes reported, but ensure profiles are updated.

Dual Citizens & Naturalized U.S. Citizens

- **Dual Citizenship (US/EU):** No rules but carry both passports. Be transparent during entry.
- **German-American Dual Citizens:** No new travel rules but carry ID for both countries.
- **Naturalized Citizens:** Rights are generally the same as U.S.-born citizens at the border.

At the Border & Data Privacy

- **Phone Searches:** CBP can ask to inspect phones/electronics. Refusal may result in denied entry. Citizens have more protection than visa holders.
- **Social Media:** No need to delete accounts but avoid inappropriate or politically sensitive content.
- **Pre-Clearance vs Regular Entry:** Pre-clearance (e.g., Dublin/Abu Dhabi) can speed up the process but still involves full inspection.

Tips for Travelers

- **Carry Documents:** Especially for green card holders and visa holders.
- **Report Address Changes:** Within 10 days.
- **Have a Contact:** Keep the number of an immigration attorney handy.
- **Visitor Visa Overstays:** May impact future entries – consult before travel.
- **ESTA Denial Follow-up:** Apply for B visa and disclose prior denials truthfully.