

# What to Know About Family Immigration

## How Can I Help a Family Member Immigrate?

Your status determines which relatives (or future relatives) may be eligible to receive immigration benefits. A foreign citizen seeking to relocate permanently in the United States requires an immigrant visa. To apply for an immigrant visa, a foreign citizen must be sponsored by an immediate relative who is at least 21 years of age and is either a U.S. citizen or U.S. Lawful Permanent Resident (green-card holder).

### There are two types of family-based immigrant visas:

*Immediate Relative* – these visas are based on a close family relationship with a U.S. citizen. Relationships include a spouse, child or parent.

*Family Preference* – these visas are for specific, more distant, family relationships with a U.S. citizen and some specified relationships with a Lawful Permanent Resident.

### Keep in mind that U.S. citizens can file an immigrant visa petition for their:

Spouse, Son or Daughter, Parent, and Brother or Sister

### U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents can only file an immigrant visa petition for their:

Spouse and Unmarried Son or Daughter

## How to Bring Your Family Member to the U.S. | Process Overview

This process varies depending on the relationship and whether you are a U.S. citizen.

Step 1. Complete Form I-130 (Petition for Alien Relative) and provide all proper documentation.

Step 2. Your family member will complete and file Form-485 (Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status) if they are lawfully in the U.S. already or your family member will complete and file Form DS-260 (Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration) if they are applying from abroad.

Step 3. Prepare for and attend an interview.

The United States immigration system is complex and everchanging. It is in your best interest to work with a knowledgeable immigration attorney who can guide you through the process to ensure accuracy and decrease delay to due to mistakes. At Thompson Legal Group, we pride ourselves on providing compassionate and competent representation to each client. We take time to answer your questions so that you understand the process. We carefully handle your case, thus providing the best possible outcome.

**Contact Our Office Today for Immediate Assistance, Email Us at [info@thompsonlegalgroup.com](mailto:info@thompsonlegalgroup.com) or Call (301) 245-7449. Visit [www.thompsonlegalgroup.com](http://www.thompsonlegalgroup.com) to Learn More.**

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