U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

MENU

Request Records through the Freedom of Information Act or Privacy Act

> ℹ **Alert:** When you request immigration records for multiple people, even if they are related, submit a separate request for each person's record. If you submit a single request for the records of multiple people, we will reject the request and send instructions to you to submit each request separately.

Requesting records from USCIS is *faster, easier, online*

Request records from USCIS

Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act (PA), you can request:

- Your own immigration records;
- Someone else's immigration records, if you have their written permission; and
- Agency policies, data, communications, and other records

How to Request and Receive Records as Quickly as Possible

Step 1: Read this entire page, to ensure you request records the right way, from the right agency.

Step 2: Confirm we have not already posted the records you need in the [USCIS Electronic Reading Room](#).

Step 3: Try to request only the specific documents you need. We can process requests for precise records much faster than requests for an entire file. If you are requesting immigration records for multiple people, even if they are related, you must submit a separate request for each person's record.

Step 4: [Make your FOIA request online](#) to avoid mailing, paper processing, and returned mail that could make it take much longer to process your request. You can also use this service to receive records online, if you

already submitted a request by mail. See the chart below.

Step 5: [Check the status of your request online](#). We will email you to check your account when your files are ready to download.

↗ Close All   ↗ Open All

How to Get Results Faster   ⌄

Where to Make Your Request   ⌄

Appeal or Dispute Our Response to Your Request   ⌄

FOIA Submission Feature for Immigration Case Management Software   ⌄

Contact the USCIS FOIA Program   ⌄

↗ Close All   ↗ Open All

Last Reviewed/Updated: 01/25/2025