IMMIGRATION
WHAT TEENS
NEED TO KNOW
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Definitions of some words used in this booklet

Employment Authorization Document: A temporary work permit issued by CIS. A person who has a work permit may temporarily work in the United States until the expiration date on the card.

“Green Card”: A resident alien card issued by CIS to a lawful permanent resident. Resident alien cards are not green (although many people call them “green cards”).


U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (CIS): The federal government agency that grants immigration benefits and is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). It is separate from U.S. Immigration & Customs enforcement (ICE), the federal government agency that enforces immigration laws.

Immigration Consultants, Notaries Public, and Notarios: Persons who are not lawyers and cannot give legal advice. You should avoid notarios and instead consult with a community organization that provides free or low-cost services. See the agency list at the end of this booklet.

Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR): A person who has a “green card” and may live permanently in the United States. An LPR may work in the United States, get federal financial aid for college and may serve in the military, but cannot vote. An LPR may be deported for certain criminal convictions or other serious problems. An LPR may become a U.S. citizen after a certain period of time.

Lawyer/Attorney: A person who may give legal advice. This person has studied law, has a law degree and is licensed by the State to practice law.

Non-immigrant: A non-U.S. citizen who is permitted to enter the United States for a limited period of time and is given a temporary visa (for example: students, tourists, and diplomats).
**Undocumented Person:** A non-U.S. citizen who is living in the United States without legal immigration status. An undocumented person does not have employment authorization (cannot work lawfully) and may be deported if discovered by DHS. He/she is not eligible for federal financial aid for college, but may be eligible for private scholarships.

**U.S. Citizen (USC):** A person born in the United States or a person who naturalized or derived U.S. citizenship from a parent. A USC may not be deported, may petition to immigrate family members more easily and quickly than an LPR and may vote in elections.

**Naturalization:** The process of applying for U.S. citizenship in the United States. Usually, a person must have been an LPR for 5 years before applying for naturalization. A person who is an LPR and is married to a USC may be eligible for citizenship after 3 years. A person must be at least 18 years old to naturalize.

**Child Citizenship Act of 2000:** A law that says that an LPR child under the age of 18 may automatically become a USC if his/her parent is a USC or becomes a USC. The child must reside in the United States and be in the legal and physical custody of the USC parent.

**Visa:** A document or stamp issued by a U.S. consulate to a non-citizen to allow that person to enter the United States. It is placed in that person’s passport. Visas are either nonimmigrant or immigrant.
INTRODUCTION

Immigration law is extremely complicated

This pamphlet provides an overview of very complex immigration options. If you are not an LPR (meaning you do not have permanent residency also known as a green card), the single most important thing you can do after reviewing this information is to schedule a consultation with a qualified immigration lawyer. In Southern California, you can obtain a high quality legal consultation from the Los Angeles County Bar Association Immigration Assistance Project. Currently, the Project charges $20.00 for a consultation. You can call this number to confirm this fee and obtain information about hours and location: (213) 485-1873.

Do not guess about Immigration Law!

If you have questions:

- Do not go to or call immigration first.
- Contact an immigration lawyer or a community organization that provides free or low-cost immigration services. You can find information on organizations around the country at: http://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/.
- Be careful of anyone who promises that you qualify to become an LPR or USC. It is against the law to make such promises or to claim a special relationship with CIS.
- If you believe someone has cheated you in your immigration case, call one of the agencies listed at the end of this booklet.

What if an immigration officer stops me?

- You have the right to remain silent.
- Be polite. Don’t run away and don’t make any false statements.
- Provide your “green card” or other U.S. immigration papers. Do not provide any false papers or documents issued by a foreign government.
- If you are arrested, ask to make a telephone call to a family member. Speak to an immigration lawyer before answering any questions including the simple question of where you were born and before signing any forms. The immigration officer must give you a list of free or low-cost legal services.
This 2012 directive by President Obama states that a certain class of undocumented youth that were brought to the United States as children, and who meet the following list of criteria, are eligible for relief from being removed from the United States. This relief is given for 2 years subject to renewal. According to this directive, eligible youth may also apply for work authorization.

The criteria are as follows:

- Arrived in the U.S. when under the age of 16.
- Have continuously resided in the U.S. for at least 5 years prior to June 15, 2012 and were present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012.
- Currently be in school, have graduated from high school, have a GED, or be an honorably-discharged veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard or the U.S. Armed Forces.
- Not have been convicted of a felony offense, a “significant misdemeanor offense,” three or more non-significant misdemeanors, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.
- Was under age 31 on June 15, 2012.

**Note:** In 2014, President Obama announced that he was expanding DACA to include more youth and he was creating a program for undocumented parents called Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA). As of July 2015, a court decision has put these new programs on hold. For more information, see the National Immigration Law Center at [http://www.nilc.org/dapa&daca.html](http://www.nilc.org/dapa&daca.html).
How do I become a Lawful Permanent Resident?

This section describes how to become an LPR through a family member. The procedure and time frame depend on many different factors, including whether your family member is a USC or LPR, your family relationship (husband or wife, mom/stepmom or dad/stepdad, child, brother or sister), the country where you were born, your age and whether you are married. The amount of time you will have to wait to get your green card depends on all of these factors. Charts 1 and 2 list the approximate waiting periods for family based petitions current through July 2015.

Note: The waiting period changes every few months.

Can my mom or dad help me become a lawful permanent resident?

You may be able to qualify to become an LPR through your husband or wife, mom, dad, brother, sister, son or daughter.

- To qualify through your parent, he/she must be a USC or LPR. If your parent is a USC, you are eligible if you are married or unmarried. If your parent is an LPR, you must be unmarried.

- To qualify if you were adopted:
  - Your adoption must have been finalized before you turned 16 and you must live with your adoptive parents for 2 years prior to applying for your residency; or
  - Your adoption must have been finalized before you turned 18 as long as you are accompanying a brother or sister younger than age 16 who is also immigrating as an adopted child; and
  - Your adoptive parent must be a USC or LPR.
To qualify through your child, he/she must be a USC and be at least 21 years old.

To qualify through your brother or sister, he/she must be a USC and be at least 21 years old. The waiting period is very long. See Charts 1 and 2.

**Note:** As of 2008, adoptions of undocumented children have become more difficult. Please speak to an immigration attorney before trying to immigrate through an adoption.
If you are under 21

CHART 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If You Are Under 21 and Your Relative Is:</th>
<th>IF YOU ARE FROM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Other Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your USC Husband or Wife</td>
<td>No Wait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your LPR Husband or Wife</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your USC Parent (if you are unmarried)</td>
<td>No Wait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your USC Parent (if you are married)</td>
<td>11 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your LPR Parent (if you are unmarried)</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your USC Brother or Sister who is 21 or Older</td>
<td>13 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition of terms:** USC = U.S. Citizen; LPR = Lawful Permanent Resident

To find the waiting period that applies in your case, check your “Priority Date” on your CIS “Approval Notice.” For current “Priority Dates,” visit the U.S. Department of State web site at http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/law-and-policy/bulletin.html and click on the link for the "Current Bulletin."

**Note:** Waiting times might change in any given month, depending on worldwide demand for a green card petition in that category.
If you are over 21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If You Are 21 or Over and Your Relative Is:</th>
<th>IF YOU ARE FROM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>All Other Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your USC Husband or Wife</td>
<td>No Wait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your LPR Husband or Wife</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your USC Parent (if you are unmarried)</td>
<td>8 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your USC Parent (if you are married)</td>
<td>11 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your LPR Parent (if you are unmarried)</td>
<td>No Wait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Your USC Brother or Sister who is 21 or Older</td>
<td>13 Years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition of terms:** USC = U.S. Citizen; LPR = Lawful Permanent Resident
Can my stepdad help me become a lawful permanent resident?

♦ If your stepdad is a USC or LPR, he may petition for you as long as your mom married your stepdad before you turned 18. Your stepdad does not need to adopt you and you do not need to have the same last name as your stepdad. Your mom should also have gotten her papers through your stepdad before he petitions for you, so CIS knows that the marriage is valid.

What if my mom never married her U.S. citizen boyfriend? Can he help me with the papers?

♦ If your mom is not married to her boyfriend, he cannot petition for you because he is not “legally” your stepdad.

My mom just applied for my residency. When do I get my work permit?

♦ If your mom is an LPR, you are not immediately eligible to apply for a work permit unless:

You are eligible for a temporary “V” non-immigrant visa.

A temporary “V” visa allows the husband, wife or children (under 21 and unmarried) of LPRs to apply for a work permit while he/she waits for a green card if he/she filed a family-based petition with CIS on or before December 21, 2000 and at least 3 years have passed since the petition was filed.

♦ If your mom is a USC and you have applied to “adjust your status” in the United States you may be eligible to apply for a work permit.
My mom, sisters and I walked across the border 5 years ago. DHS or the police never stopped us. Does that mean I have been “Unlawfully Present” in the United States?

If you entered the United States without papers (you didn’t have a visa or overstayed your visa), and never fixed your immigration papers, you are unlawfully present. The period of “unlawful presence” generally starts to run when you turn 18.

Note: In some cases “unlawful presence” runs while you are under 18 and you have made multiple trips across the border (in particular, if you leave the United States and return without permission), you may be permanently barred from getting your residency.

- “Unlawfully present” means, among other things, that you entered the United States without a visa, overstayed a visa, violated a term of your visa, arrived without papers, or were not otherwise admitted or paroled. There are some exceptions.

- “Unlawful presence” may be waived if you are the husband, wife, son or daughter of a USC or LPR and you prove that the bar would result in extreme hardship to your USC or LPR husband, wife or parent. You cannot ask for a waiver simply because you are the parent of a USC child. This waiver might be available to you before you leave the United States for your consular interview. Consult with an immigration attorney to see if you qualify for this “stateside” unlawful presence waiver.
If I entered the United States unlawfully, do I have to leave the United States to get my green card?

- If you or your parent applied for an immigration benefit on or before April 30, 2001, or if someone applied on your or your parent’s behalf on or before that date, you might be eligible to “adjust status” in the United States. That means you do not have to leave the United States to obtain your green card. If you are eligible to “adjust status” in the United States, you must pay a $1,000 penalty (unless you are not married and under 17 years old).

- If you or your parent (or someone on your or your parent’s behalf) applied for an immigration benefit between January 14, 1998 and April 30, 2001, you must prove to CIS that you were in the United States on December 21, 2000.

- If you or your parent (or someone on your or your parent’s behalf) applied for residency after April 30, 2001, you are not eligible to “adjust status” in the United States. That means you have to leave the United States for your green card interview. You must return to your country of origin and go through “consular processing” at the U.S. consulate. That means U.S. consular representative will interview you and determine whether you will be become an LPR. And:

  - If, after the age of 18, you have been unlawfully present in the United States for more than 180 days (but less than 1 year), you are barred (or inadmissible) from returning to the United States for 3 years. There are exceptions.

  - If, after the age of 18, you have been unlawfully present in the United States for more than 1 year, you are barred (or inadmissible) from returning to the United States for 10 years. There are exceptions.

Consult an immigration attorney before leaving the United States for your interview at the U.S. consulate. See the agency list at the end of this booklet. This is important, since some people with pre-18 unlawful presence who have made multiple trips across the border are permanently barred from getting their residency.
If I entered the United States Lawfully, do I have to leave the country for 10 years before obtaining my green card?

♦ If you entered the United States lawfully and are the husband, wife, parent or child (unmarried and under 21) of a USC, you may be eligible to “adjust status” in the United States even if you applied after April 30, 2001 and even if you have not maintained lawful nonimmigrant status. That means you might not have to leave the United States to obtain your green card.

If you entered the United States lawfully and have maintained lawful nonimmigrant status, and you are the husband, wife, or child of an LPR or the brother or sister of a USC, you may be eligible to “adjust status” in the United States even if you applied after April 30, 2001. That means you may not have to leave the United States to obtain your green card.

My dad applied for his green card a few years ago, but he has not received it. He did not include me in his application. Can he apply for me now?

♦ As long as your dad is alive and applied for his green card, and you are under 21 and unmarried, you may be eligible to apply for your green card as a “derivative beneficiary.” Even if you are over 21, you still might be considered to be under 21 for immigration purposes depending on several factors. Speak with an immigration attorney to see whether you have “aged out” of your parent’s immigration petition.
PUBLIC CHARGE

I’ve been receiving welfare for my U.S. citizen baby. Can my mom help me become a resident? Will I be denied a green card?

♦ If your mom is a USC or LPR, she can petition for you even if you are receiving welfare for your baby. If you yourself rely solely on cash benefits such as CalWORKs, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), CAPI, or General Assistance/General Relief (GR) you may be denied residency. That means CIS can refuse to give you a green card, even if your mom provides an affidavit of support (see below).

You must show that you will not become dependent on government benefits or become a “public charge.” CIS will consider your age, health, family size, income, education, and job skills.

♦ CIS has said it is OK if you use the following benefits:

Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, County Health Programs, testing and treatment of communicable diseases, immunizations, prenatal care, emergency medical assistance, short-term rehabilitation services, Food Stamps, WIC (Women, Infants and Children), School Meals, Emergency Food Assistance Programs, Head Start, Child Care Services, Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, job training programs and transportation vouchers.

Note: This is not the entire list of safe programs. If you have questions about benefits and “public charge,” call one of the agencies listed at the end of this booklet.

- If your mom petitions for you, she must file an “Affidavit of Support.” Your mom must meet the federal poverty guidelines and agree to support you for a certain period of time if you cannot support yourself. If your mom does not meet the income requirement, she may ask a joint sponsor who meets the requirements and agrees to support you.

- Once you have your green card, DHS cannot deport you just for using public benefits that you qualify to receive. DHS can deport you if you lied to get benefits (committed fraud); for
example, if you lied about your immigration status or lied about your use of benefits when you originally got your green card.

- If you leave the United States for more than 180 days (about 6 months), however, you can be questioned about public charge when you return to the United States. If you receive cash public benefits, you should not travel outside of the United States for more than 180 days.

Public Charge does not apply to a person who is applying to become a USC.

Public Charge does not apply to refugees and people granted asylum or to Special Immigrant Juveniles, among others.

Note: If your child was born in the United States, she is a USC and may qualify for welfare even if you are undocumented. When you apply for welfare, tell your worker that you are “not eligible.” Because you are not applying for yourself, you do not need to give any information about your immigration status and you do not need a Social Security number. Your worker may only ask about your child’s immigration status and Social Security number.
U VISA

I was the victim of a crime and I helped the police with the investigation. Is there any immigration help for me?

You may be eligible for a U visa if you have been the victim of a crime and were harmed by that crime, and you (or in some cases your parent) were helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. The person who harmed you need not have been charged with the crime or sent to prison. For you to qualify, the police officer or other law enforcement person must sign a U visa Certification.

- If you are granted a U visa, you will get a work permit and after 3 years you can apply to become an LPR. You will also qualify for some government benefits that can help you to recover from the crime.

- If you were the victim of the crime and are under 21, you can include your parents or unmarried siblings under the age of 18 in your application.

- If one of your parents qualifies for a U visa, you can be included on the application as long as you are under 21 and unmarried. If your brother or sister qualifies for a U visa, you can be included on his or her application as long as you are under 18 and unmarried.
T VISA

Someone made me work when I did not want to work or I have had sex in exchange for money. Is there any immigration help for me?

♦ Victims of human trafficking may be eligible for T Visas to stay and work in the United States.

♦ You may have been a victim of human trafficking if:

   • You were under 18 and you had sex in exchange for money, food, shelter, drugs, or anything else of value;
   • You were over 18 and someone made you have sex in exchange for money, food, shelter, drugs, or anything else of value; OR
   • Someone made you work when you did not want to work. This means any kind of work, including working as a nanny or housekeeper, working in a restaurant, or working in agriculture.

♦ If you are under 18, you do not need to report what happened to you to the police to receive the T Visa. If you are over 18, you do need to report what happened to the police but the police do not need to sign a certification for you to receive your visa.

♦ If you are granted a T Visa, you will get a work permit and after 3 years you can apply to become an LPR. You can also qualify for some government benefits while you are working on your T Visa application and after it has been approved.

♦ If you are the victim of human trafficking and are under 21, you can include your parents, spouse, children, or unmarried siblings under 18 in your application.

♦ If one of your parents qualifies for a T Visa, you can be included on the application if you are under 21 and unmarried. If your brother or sister qualifies for a T Visa, you can be included on the application if you are under 18 and unmarried.
You might be eligible for “cancellation of removal.” Cancellation of removal is a defense to deportation. To be eligible, you must be in deportation proceedings or you must turn yourself in to DHS and be placed in deportation proceedings (now called “removal” proceedings).

Once you are in deportation proceedings, you may apply to an immigration judge to “cancel” your deportation through “cancellation of removal.”

You must prove that you have lived in the United States continuously for at least 10 years, that deportation will result in “exceptional and extremely unusual hardship” to your USC or LPR husband, wife, child or parent and that you are a person of “good moral character.” Hardship to you is not important to the immigration judge. In your case, the judge will consider whether deportation will cause an “exceptional and extremely unusual hardship” to your USC baby.

You will need a lawyer to apply properly for “cancellation of removal.” A judge will question you during a long and complicated hearing. The judge will not grant you cancellation of removal simply because you have lived in the United States for 10 years. This law is very different from suspension of deportation (also known as the “7 year” law). Only a very small percentage (under 5%) of cancellation of removal cases are granted every year.
My dad opposed the government in our home country. He was arrested and threatened. We fled to the United States. Can we file for asylum?

♦ You may file for asylum if you have been persecuted in your home country based on religion, nationality, race, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group or you have a “well-founded” fear of persecution for those reasons in the future.

♦ In most cases, you must file for asylum within one year of entering the United States. There are exceptions, including for children under 18 who are in the United States without a parent or legal guardian who can care for them. Consult with a lawyer about your individual situation.

♦ If your application for asylum is granted, you are an “asylee.” You are eligible to apply to become an LPR one year after you become an asylee.

♦ If your father or mother files for asylum, he or she can include your other parent and all of their children who are under 21. But a child cannot include his or her parent on the asylum application.

♦ If your father or mother has already been granted asylum, you can apply for asylum as a “derivative” within a certain amount of time of the grant if you are under 21 and unmarried.
My mom always kicks and slaps me and call me nasty names. She threatens to call immigration if I tell anyone at school. I need her help to become a Lawful Permanent Resident, but I can’t take the abuse any longer. What can I do?

- You may be eligible to apply to become an LPR without your mom’s help under a law called VAWA. CIS will not notify your mom about your application.

- If you are abused by (1) your LPR or USC husband or wife, or (2) your LPR or USC parent or stepparent, you may be eligible to file a VAWA petition. To apply as an abused child, you must be under 21 (or in some cases 25) and unmarried.

- You must prove that you have suffered physical, sexual or emotional abuse. Start collecting documents such as police reports, medical records and photographs (which show you were injured), criminal court documents, and counseling records.

- If you are considering a divorce from the abuser, or if the abuser is facing deportation (removal), speak with an immigration attorney as soon as possible.
My dad never took care of me and my little sister. He barely bought food for us and sometimes hit us. We ended up in foster care. Can someone help us apply for residency?

If you are not living with both of your parents, you may be eligible for residency as a “special immigrant juvenile.” Children in Juvenile Court (dependency or delinquency), Probate Court (under a permanent guardianship), or Family Court can be eligible.

♦ To qualify:

- You must be under 21 years old and unmarried.
- You must be a “dependent” of the juvenile court, or the court must have placed you in the custody of a state agency or department or an individual or entity.
- Reunification with one or both of your parents must not be viable as a result of abuse, neglect or abandonment.
- It must be in your “best interest” to stay in the United States and not to return to your home country.

If you are a foster child in Los Angeles County, call the Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) Special Immigrant Status Unit at (323) 725-4464. Otherwise, contact an agency listed at the end of this booklet. Public Counsel specializes in Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.
I’ve been volunteering for several months and my supervisors really like me. My boss said she would help me apply for residency, including sponsoring me. Can I file an Employment-Based application?

- To file an employment-based application, you must have a job offer in a field that has a shortage of workers because it requires unique skills. You may qualify if you show that there are not enough workers in the United States to do the work that you do and you will not take the job away from other workers in the United States.

- This process is very long and eligibility is very difficult to prove to CIS. Talk to an immigration attorney before filing any application.
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

How do I apply for a Social Security card? To get a Social Security card, you must be a USC, LPR, or have other lawful immigration status in the United States. You usually need to have work authorization to get a Social Security number. You must complete an application, and prove your age, identity and lawful status. There is no charge for a Social Security card. It usually takes about two weeks to receive your card.

I am undocumented, and my undocumented parents use a number for me on their tax returns. Is this a Social Security number? Your parents probably have an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) for you. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issues this number to persons who are not eligible for a Social Security number. It does not provide you with the right to work and does not grant you any immigration status. To apply for an ITIN, you must file a Form W-7 or W-7SP (in Spanish) with the IRS.

How do I get a California driver license or ID? In California, you do not need lawful immigration status to get a driver’s license or ID. See information from the California DMV at: http://dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/ab60/index.

But if you are not eligible for a driver license or ID or you choose not to get one, you should apply for some other form of photo identification. For example:

- Apply for a passport at your local consulate office.

- If you are from Mexico, you can apply for a Matricula Consular or Consular Identification Card at the Mexican Consulate. In Los Angeles, you can use the card to get a library card, public utilities and to open a bank account. The card does not provide you with the right to work and does not grant you any immigration status.

- If you are stopped by the police or DHS, do not show them any of these foreign documents and instead ask to speak to an immigration attorney.

See page 27 for Social Security, IRS and consulate contact information.
Can I buy a ticket for the Visa Lottery?

- You do not buy tickets for the visa lottery. In fact, it costs nothing to enter! If you win, you must pay a fee for an immigrant visa. You can apply from within the United States. But you have to meet specific requirements to gain your lawful permanent residency within the United States via the visa lottery.

- To be eligible, you must have a high school diploma or 2 years work experience in a field that requires at least 2 years of training. If your parents apply, they must include you in their application, and you must be under 21 and unmarried. For more information, visit the U.S. State Department website at http://www.state.gov/.

- Only about 50,000 people from under-represented countries are chosen each year through the lottery.

Residents of “high admission” countries cannot enter the lottery because their countries already send many people to the U.S. For the year 2016 lottery (which closed in 2014), excluded countries were: Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam.
**COLLEGE**

I’m undocumented. Can I go to college?

- **Yes!** You cannot be rejected from a college or university just because you are undocumented.

- Even if you are undocumented, you may qualify for in-state tuition at a California State University (CSU), a University of California (UC) and a community college. To be eligible, you must (1) attend a California high school for at least 3 years, (2) graduate from a California high school or get your GED, (3) file a California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request form with the university or college stating that you have applied to be an LPR (“green card” holder) or will apply as soon as you are eligible. The form is filed with the college or university and not with CIS.

Ask your college or university for a California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Request form. Check with the Admissions Office or Office of the Registrar. The form is also available at many sites on the internet. You may also qualify for state-based financial aid. See [http://www.e4fc.org](http://www.e4fc.org) for details.
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (CIS):
(Formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service or “INS”) Official government site: http://www.uscis.gov
National Customer Service Center: ........................................... 800-375-5283

Information about immigration laws and regulations, CIS forms and fees, naturalization-requirements and guides, etc.

U.S. Department of State:
Official government site: http://www.state.gov
Information about visas, current priority dates, passport services, travel tips, etc.

National Visa Center..............................................................603-334-0700

Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC):
http://www.ilrc.org ..............................................................415-255-9499

Materials on deferred action, U visas, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, family-based immigration, immigration and crimes, U.S. citizenship, and “know your rights.”

National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild:
http://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org .........................617-227-9727

For help finding an immigration attorney and for other immigration resources.

California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV):
Official government site: http://www.dmv.ca.gov ............800-777-0133
Information about obtaining a driver license, identification card, etc.

Social Security Administration:
Official government site: http://www.ssa.gov.........................800-772-1213
Information about how to get a Social Security card, replace your card, applications, etc.

Spanish: http://www.ssa.gov/espanol
Information for noncitizens: http://www.ssa.gov/immigration
**Internal Revenue Service:**

Information about how to apply for an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, taxes, etc.

**Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles:**
Official government site:
http://www.sre.gob.mx/losangeles........................................213-351-6800
2401 West 6th Street
Los Angeles, California 90057

To find the embassy of your home country, visit:
Public Counsel is the nation’s largest *pro bono* law firm. Public Counsel coordinates the contributions of thousands of volunteer lawyers each year. Public Counsel serves those in need — such as children and the elderly, literacy projects and low income housing providers, refugees and the homeless — by providing legal representation and matching financially eligible clients with volunteer attorneys.

While this publication is designed to provide accurate and current information about the law, readers should contact an attorney or other expert for advice in particular cases, and should also consult the relevant statutes and court decisions when relying on cited materials.

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Do you have any questions such as:

- What is a green card?
- What is Lawful Permanent Resident?
- What is DACA?
- What is VAWA?
- What is a U Visa?
- What is a T Visa?
- What is a SIJS?

This booklet provides an overview of immigration laws and options.

We are here to help.

HAVE QUESTIONS FOR AN ATTORNEY?
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