



Post-Grant Information for People who Win Adjustment of Status Before an Immigration Judge in Arizona¹

First off: **Congratulations on winning your case!** This is a sheet of information that explains how to get your papers in order so you start working and living in the U.S. as a new Lawful Permanent Resident.

1. Making the USCIS Appointment

- You **must** make an appointment with US Customs and Immigration Services (CIS) after you win your case to present the judge's order to them. ***They will not make a green card for you unless you make this appointment and show up in person with the right information.***
- Make an INFOPASS appointment on the internet after you're released from detention at www.uscis.gov (most public libraries have free access to the internet and printers if you do not have a computer at home)
- You **must** print out the receipt notice from the website and bring it with you. No one is allowed in the building unless they have a scheduled INFOPASS appointment and the receipt. Also, all adults entering the CIS building need an official form of picture ID (like a passport or a state ID)
- You must bring the **original** judge's order granting your adjustment of status to this appointment
- They will fill out a piece of paper including information about your occupation, marital status, first name of both parents, and how and when you entered the U.S. (you can find this information on the Immigration form called the Notice to Appear).
- If you have a passport, you can ask Immigration to put a Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) stamp in it which may allow you to apply for social security and start working/receiving benefits/etc much sooner than if you wait for your green card before applying for a social security number (it takes anywhere from 2 weeks to 7 months after the CIS appointment to get the actual green card in the mail).
- USCIS will need an address they can send the green card to. If you will be homeless or moving around a lot upon being released from detention, you need to figure out where you can receive mail. It can cost up to \$370

¹ This self help packet was created in March 2009 by the Florence Project Social Services Coordinator Deborah Bergman to assist pro se respondents detained in Florence and Eloy, Arizona. The Florence Project's copyright protection permits dissemination and use of our pro se materials for educational and legal assistance purposes. We kindly ask that credit be given to the Florence Project when circulating our pro se materials or adapting them into your own materials for circulation.

and take about 9 months to get a replacement card if the original is sent back to CIS because it could not be delivered to you. Many homeless shelters have systems set up so that people can receive mail there. You may want to look into this if you are homeless or rent a PO Box from the post office if you have money.

2. Getting a Social Security Number

- Once you have either an LPR stamp in your passport or your actual green card, you can apply for a social security number. You **must** have a social security number in order to accept a job or get public benefits in the U.S.
- You need **two** original identity documents for a social security number. The green card/stamped passport and a state ID, original birth certificate with translation, or a student ID are all acceptable forms of identification.
- Social Security numbers are free (but you can only get 10 replacement cards in your whole life so guard yours in a safe place once you have it).

3. Getting a State ID

- The state ID is a good idea because it gives you an official Arizona ID and a form of ID to carry with you while you wait for your green card. Also the green card is only proof of your immigration status and you should not have to show it to people to prove your identity. You can use the state ID for this purpose.
- You can get a temporary 6 month ID before you get your social security card. You **must** show them the original judge's order and one other form of official ID such as a school ID, a passport, or sometimes even the ID that you may have with you from a prison or from the Immigration detention center.
- If the passport already has the LPR stamp in it, you cannot get a temporary ID until the social security number comes in so you may need to be strategic about which appointments you do first. Try to get the state ID before you go to your appointment with Immigration.
- Temporary Arizona state IDs are \$12

4. Getting a Passport

- Until you become a citizen of the U.S. (which you can apply for after you have had your green card for five years), you are still a citizen of your country of origin and can apply for a passport from the Consulate of your country of citizenship.
- Passports can cost anywhere from \$60-200 and can take anywhere from one day to several months to arrive depending on what country you are from.
- It may be a good idea to get a passport if you don't have any other official forms of ID or if you would like to get the LPR stamp in your passport at

your INFOPASS appointment while you wait for your green card to arrive by mail.

- Anyone who travels to most places outside of the U.S. needs to have a passport from their country of citizenship. As a Lawful Permanent Resident, you now have permission to leave the U.S. for up to six months out of the year so if you're thinking about traveling, you should consider getting a passport.
- Also, if you have a passport and lose your green card in the future, you can always make another INFOPASS appointment with CIS to get another LPR stamp until your replacement green card comes so you can continue working and living here without problems.