



USCIS Fee Changes

How to Prepare Your Program

Meet Today's Presenters



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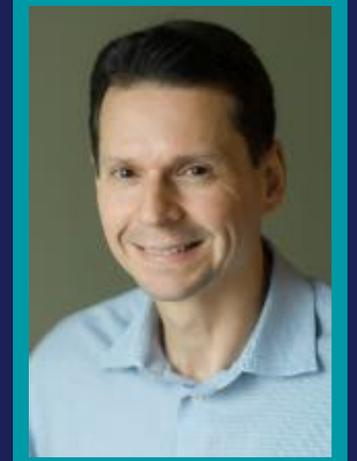
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Webinar Agenda

The Rulemaking Process

High-Level Changes to the USCIS Fee Schedule effective April 1, 2024

Changes to Fees for Certain Benefits

- Naturalization and Citizenship
- Form I-485 Fee Changes and “Unbundling”
- DACA/TPS
- Religious Workers

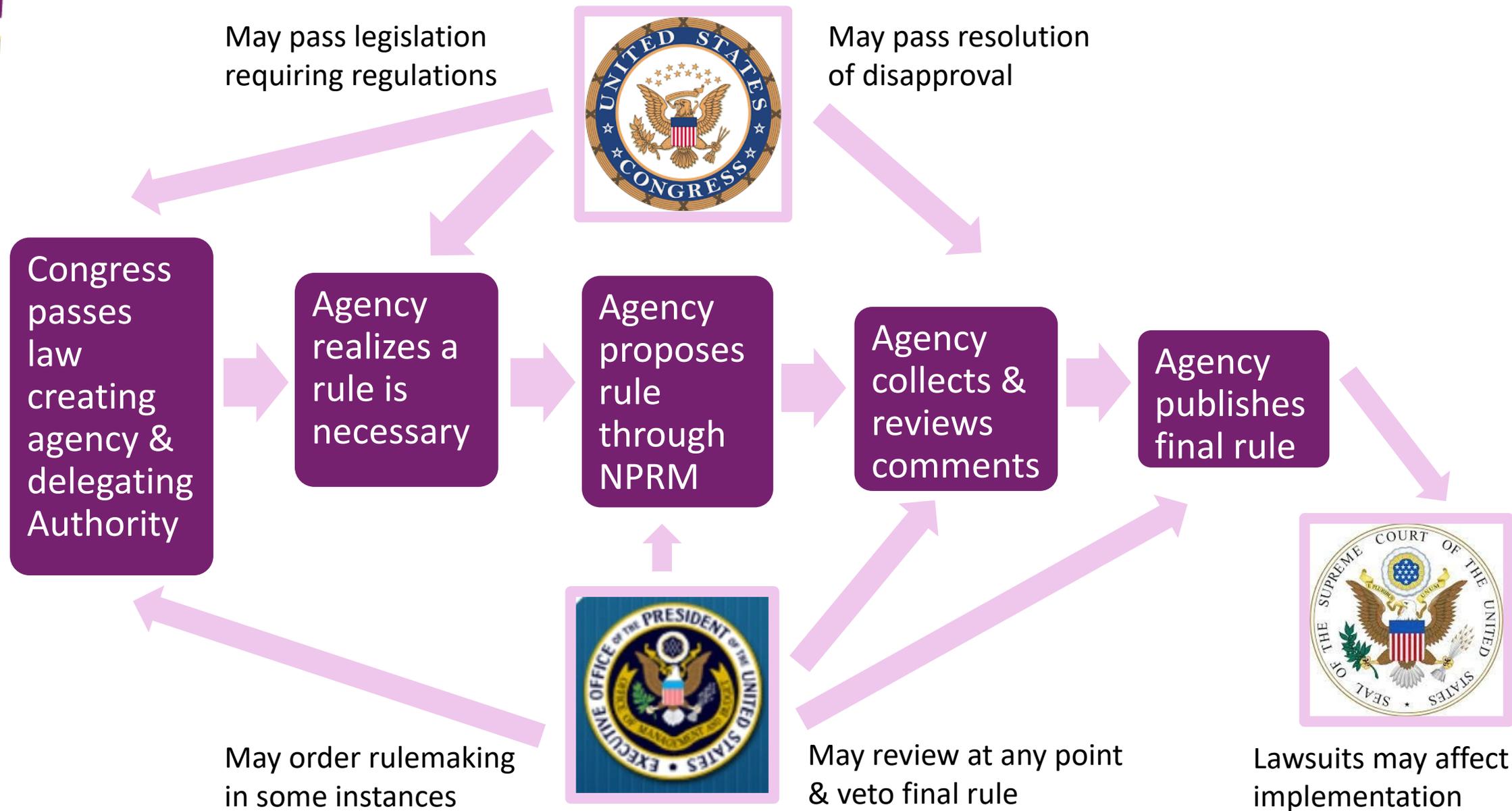
Fee Waivers & Exemptions

How to Prepare Your Program

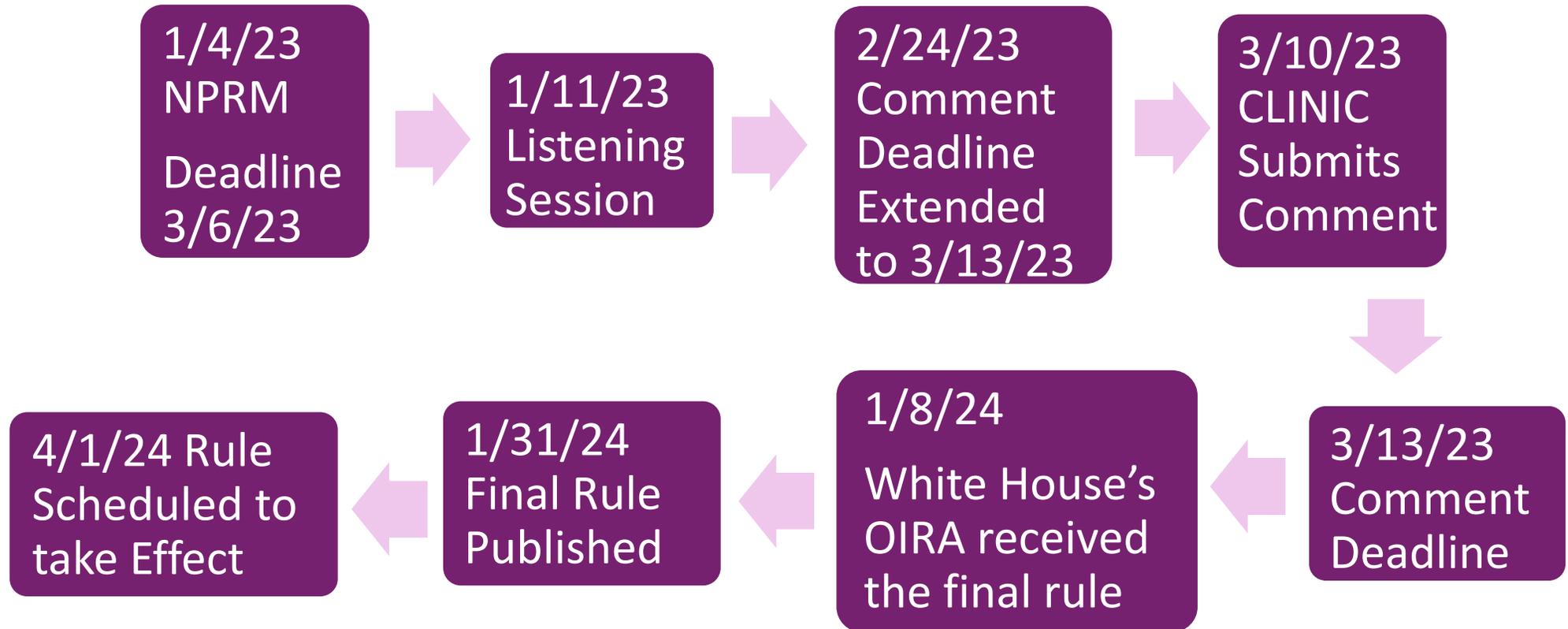
Ongoing Advocacy

The Rulemaking Process

The Rulemaking Process



The Rulemaking Process: USCIS Fee Rule



High-Level Changes to the Fee Schedule

High-Level Changes to the Fee Schedule

NPRM v. Final Fee

- Final Rule: Tables 1, 5A-5C
- USCIS FAQ Website
- We will notate the difference between current costs and costs as of April 1, not the difference between NPRM and Final Fee
- Start with Fee Waivers, Exemptions, & Reductions

High-Level Changes to the Fee Schedule

Online Filing

- In most cases, \$50 discount for filing online
- Exceptions:
 - USCIS prohibited by law from recovering costs
 - Form fees already provided at substantial discount
- Lots of forms currently not available online
- New forms will be available online April 1
- No old forms online after April 1

High-Level Changes to the Fee Schedule

Biometrics Fees

- No separate biometrics fee for most cases
- USCIS biometric costs spread among requests which require biometric services
- Separate biometric services fee of \$30 required for TPS and EOIR filings

High-Level Changes to the Fee Schedule

USCIS Fee Rule FAQ

- Includes fee table
- Living, breathing document

Form G-1055, Fee Schedule

- No filing fee info in Form Instructions
- [Form G-1055, Fee Schedule](#)
- [Form G-1055 Redlined Preview](#)

USCIS Fee Calculator

High-Level Changes to the Fee Schedule

Form Revisions and Grace Periods

- Grace Period (April 1-June 3)
- *No Grace Period for Fees*
- Exceptions: I-129, I-129 CW, and others
 - Preview: 30 days before on form landing page
 - [I-129 Redlined Preview](#)
- Postmark rule: Form version + fees
- Received Date: Deadlines

Changes to Fees for Certain Benefit Petitions & Applications

Naturalization

Form	Fee Prior to Rule	Fee in Final Rule	Increase in \$	Increase in %
N400 Paper	\$725	\$760	\$35	5%
N400 Online	\$725	\$710	-\$15	-2%
N400 Reduced	\$405	\$380	-\$25	-6%



Application for Naturalization
 Department of Homeland Security
 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS
Form N-400
 OMB No. 1615-0052
 Expires 11/30/2025

For USCIS Use Only	Date Stamp	Receipt	Action Block
Remarks			

File Online

► **START HERE** - Type or print in black ink. Type or print "N/A" if an item is not applicable or the answer is none, unless otherwise indicated. Failure to answer all of the questions may delay U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) processing your Form N-400. **NOTE: You must complete Parts 1. - 15.**

Natz: Fee Waivers & Reduced Fees

- Fee Waiver: Paper only
- Reduced fee: Paper only
 - Before April 1: 150-200%
 - After April 1: up to 400%
- Forms
 - Included in new Form N-400, pt 10.
 - I-942 will be discontinued
 - Grace period: N400 & I-942
- Biometrics
 - N400 applicants must submit, but no separate fee

Request for Reduced Fee
Department of Homeland Security
Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS
Form I-942
OMB No.1615-0133
Expires 12/31/2026

Request Received (Select only one box)

For USCIS Use Only	<input type="checkbox"/> USCIS Field Office	<input type="checkbox"/> USCIS Service Center
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Fee Approved Date: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduced Fee Denied Date: _____

START HERE - Type or print in black ink.

Naturalization: Request for Hearing

Form	Fee Prior to Rule	Fee in Final Rule	Increase in \$	Increase in %
N336 Paper	\$700	\$830	\$130	19%
N336 Online	\$700	\$780	\$80	11%



**Request for a Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization
Proceedings Under Section 336**

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS
Form N-336
OMB No. 1615-0050
Expires 11/30/2026

For USCIS Use Only	
Barcode	Date Stamp
Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Re-Affirm N-400 Denial <input type="checkbox"/> Re-Determine N-400 Denial	
To be completed by an	<input type="checkbox"/> Select this box if Form G-28 is
	Attorney State Bar Number (if applicable) Attorney or Accredited Representative USCIS Online Account Number (if any)

File Online

N600: Certificate of Citizenship

Form	Fee Prior to Rule	Fee in Final Rule	Increase in \$	Increase in %
N600 Paper	\$1170	\$1385	\$215	18%
N600 Online	\$1170	\$1335	\$165	14%



Application for Certificate of Citizenship

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS
Form N-600
OMB No. 1615-0057
Expires 12/31/2018

Date Stamp	Receipt	Action Block

[File Online](#)

Application to Replace LPR Card

Form	Fee Prior to Rule	Fee in Final Rule	Change in \$	Change in %
I-90 Paper	\$540	\$465	-\$75	-14%
I-90 Online	\$540	\$415	-\$125	-23%



Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS
Form I-90
OMB No. 1615-0082
Expires 07/31/2019

For USCIS Use Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant Interviewed	Receipt	Action Block
	Date: _____		
	Class of Admission		
	Remarks		

File Online

Naturalization & Citizenship in Action

Farhan and his 12-year-old daughter, Farah, have been LPRs for 7 years. Farhan's wife is a USC and petitioned for them both 8 years ago. Farhan wishes to apply for his and his daughter's citizenship, but he's not sure he can afford it. What should you consider regarding the Fee Rule?

Spotlight on DACA and TPS

DACA

- **Form I-821D: \$85 – no change**, same fee online/paper
- **Form I-765 (c)(33): \$520** (paper); **\$470** (online)
- **No fee waivers available – no change**

TPS

- **Form I-821: – no change**
Initial registration **\$50**; re-registration **\$0**
- **Biometrics fee still applies, but reduced to \$30**
- **Form I-765 (a)(12) or (c)(19): \$520** (paper); **\$470** (online)
- **Fee exemption eliminated:** initial I-765 for applicants under age 14 or over age 65 will be subject to a fee
- **Fee waivers available**, if eligible – **no change**

DACA AP and TPS Travel Doc.: Form I-131: \$630 (paper)*

Form I-485 Highlights and Fee Changes

- **Must file on paper** – Form not available for online filing
- **New Filing fee: \$1440 generally** (\$215 increase from \$1225)
 - **\$950 reduced fee for certain children** – Applies to children under age 14 who file Form I-485 concurrently with a parent
- **See new filing fee exemptions!**
- **Fee Bundling for interim benefits (I-765 & I-131) = \$0**
 - Applies If I-485 is filed (postmark date) between Jul. 30, 2007 - Mar. 31, 2024, only if applicant pays the required I-485 filing fee, and Form I-485 is still pending
- **Unbundled interim benefits (I-765 & I-131) = Separate fees \$\$**
 - Applies if I-485 postmark date is on or after Apr. 1, 2024

Once Final Fee Rule Takes Effect: “One-Steps” and I-485 Fee Unbundling

- **Form I-130** = \$675 (paper); \$625 (online)
- **Form I-360** = fee varies; if not exempt, \$515 (paper filing only)
- **I-485 Interim Benefits Unbundled**
 - **I-765 (c)(9) fee = \$260 discounted fee** if I-485 is filed with fee as long as I-485 is pending
 - **I-131 fee = \$630 (paper)* – full fee, no discount**
 - Currently, applicants cannot file either interim benefit online
 - ***Note:** Draft Fee Schedule Form G-1055 contemplates online filing for both interim benefits
- **Unclear if online filing will be *more* efficient or practical**
 - Form I-485 will **not** be available to file online

Family-Based Immigration Fees in Action

Manny a USC, has consulted about family-based immigration options for his husband, Stan, and step-child, Maya, age 15. Manny and Stan married three months ago. Stan overstayed a B-2 tourist visa five years ago and his daughter Maya lives overseas. The family is working on saving money for immigration-related petitions and application fees.

- **Is there a benefit to filing prior to Fee Rule effective date?**
- **How may the new Fee Rule impact cost and timelines?**

Form I-765: Work Authorization Generally

- **Form I-765 fee will vary by EAD category**
 - **Form G-1055, Appendix B** (currently pp. 31-36 on draft form)
 - **General filing fee** unless otherwise noted:
 - **\$520** (paper); **\$470** (online)
 - **Online filing?**
 - Not all I-765 categories are available for online filing
 - See if **fee exemption** or **fee waiver** is available
 - **Category (c)(9) EAD 50% discount - \$260**
 - Only if pending I-485 is paid and filed after 4/1/24

Notable Fee Schedule Changes

Form	Fee Prior to Rule	Fee in Final Rule	Change in \$	Change in %
I-129F	\$535	\$675	\$140	26%
I-130*	\$535	\$675	\$140	26%
I-539*	\$455	\$470	\$15	3%
I-751	\$680	\$750	\$70	10%
I-601A	\$715	\$795	\$80	11%
I-601	\$930	\$1050	\$120	13%
I-212	\$930	\$1175	\$245	26%
I-290B	\$675	\$800	\$125	19%

*\$50 Discount if filed online

Notable Fee Schedule Changes

Form	Fee Prior to Rule	Fee in Final Rule	Increase in \$	Increase in %
I-129	\$460	\$510	\$50	11%

**Premium Processing (expedited processing) fee for religious worker I-129 nonimmigrant petitions increased from \$1500 to \$1685 beginning February 26, 2024.*

Notes for Religious Workers

- Most employment-based I-129 nonimmigrant and I-140 immigrant petition filers will be required to pay an additional \$600 Asylum Program Fee (in addition to the form fee).
- HOWEVER, non-profit employers (religious worker sponsors) will not be required to pay this additional fee.
- ALSO, small employers (25 or less employees) will only pay an additional \$300 Asylum Program Fee.

Notes for Religious Workers

- I-129 Premium Processing - 15 Business days
- I-360 Special Immigrant Religious Worker Petition Fee scheduled to increase from \$435 to \$515 (+\$80 or 18%).
- Renewing EADs and APs for those religious workers with pending I-485s
- NEW I-129 Form beginning 4/1/24 – NO GRACE PERIOD
- USCIS announced new version I-129 to be released – normally 30 days before effective date (4/1/24).

Fee Waivers & Exemptions

Fee Waivers

Final Fee Rule:

- **Codifies fee waiver eligibility criteria at 8 CFR 106.3(a)(1)**
 - Income at or below 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines
 - Extreme financial hardship
 - Receipt of a means-tested benefit*
 - *** Modification to Form I-912 instructions (not in regs):**
 - USCIS will accept evidence of a means-tested benefit by a household child as evidence of a parent's inability to pay
- **No mandatory use of Form I-912; may file written request**
- **Form I-912 is NOT available to file online**

Forms eligible for fee waiver enumerated at 8 CFR 106.3(a)(3)

See Table 5C in Final Rule

Humanitarian Fee Exemptions

Final rule codifies and expands fee exemptions at 8 CFR 106.3(b)

- 1) Special Immigrant Juveniles (SIJs)
- 2) T nonimmigrant status
- 3) Certain Afghan/Iraqi SIVs
- 4) Abused spouses and children under CAA/HRIFA
- 5) U nonimmigrant status
- 6) VAWA
- 7) Abused spouses and children applying for benefits under NACARA
- 8) Battered spouses, children, of USC/LPR – COR AOS INA 240A(b)(2)
- 9) Refugees, persons paroled as refugees, and LPR refugees

Yes, exemptions apply to derivatives: VAWA, U status, T status, SIV

See Table 5C in Final Rule

Humanitarian Fee Exemptions Cont'd

SIJs

- Form I-131 • Form I-290B (only if filed for any benefit request filed before adjusting status or for Form I-485 and associated ancillary forms) • Form I-360 • Form I-485
- Form I-601 • Form I-765 (initial, renewal, and replacement request) • Form I-824

SIV

- Form I-131 • Form I-212 • Form I-290B (only if filed for any benefit request filed before adjusting status or for Form I-485 and associated ancillary forms) • Form I-360
- Form I-485 • Form I-765 (initial, renewal, and replacement request) • Form I-601 • Form I-824

Humanitarian Fee Exemptions Cont'd

U

- Form I-131 • Form I-918 • Form I-918 Supp A
- Form I-918 Supp B • Form I-192 • Form I-193
- Form I-290B (only if filed for any benefit request filed before adjusting status or for Form I-485 and associated ancillary forms) • Form I-485 • Form I-539* • Form I-601
- Form I-765 (initial, renewal, and replacement requests)
- Form I-929 • Form I-824

T

- Form I-914 • Form I-914 Supp A • Form I-914 Supp B
- Form I-131 • Form I-192 • Form I-193 • Form I-290B (only if filed for any benefit request filed before adjusting status or for Form I-485 and associated ancillary forms)
- Form I-485 • Form I-539 • Form I-601 • Form I-765 (initial, renewal, and replacement requests) • Form I-824

Humanitarian Fee Exemptions Cont'd

VAWA

- Form I-360 • Form I-131 • Form I-212 • Form I-290B (only if filed for any benefit request filed before adjusting status or for Form I-485 and associated ancillary forms) • Form I-485 • Form I-601 • Form I-601A • Form I-765 (initial, renewal, and replacement request for (c)(9), (c)(14), (c)(31) • Form I-824

Refugees

- Form I-131 Refugee Travel Document (RTD)
- Form I-131A
- Form I-765 (initial, renewal, and replacement request)

- **NOTE: Asylees/LPR Asylees NOT fee exempt from Form I-131 RTD**
 - If under age 16: \$135; if age 16 or older: \$165

Additional Fee Exemptions

- **Conditional Permanent Resident Spouse or Child who file:**
 - Form I-751 waiver case based on battery or extreme cruelty
 - Form I-290B if above-referenced I-751 waiver case is denied
- **Certain adoption-related fees**
- **Certain U.S. military servicemembers**

Key Takeaways



- Exemption = No fee; I-912 fee waiver NOT required
- On or after April 1, 2024: Refer to **Form G-1055**
- Expanded humanitarian exemptions generally end at LPR stage
- If not fee exempt, check if fee waiver is available

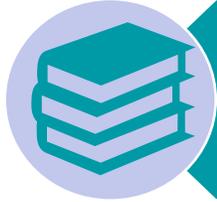
Fee Waiver and Exemptions in Action

Maribel, has adjusted status based on U1 status. Prior to adjusting status last month, Maribel married Felipe, who is undocumented. Maribel has two children, Angela, age 20, and Jaime, age 18. Angela adjusted status based on asylum last year and Jaime entered the U.S. as a CAM refugee earlier this year. Maribel has promised her children a trip to Costa Rica. Maribel wants to know if she should file an I-929 for her husband now. Her children will require travel documents. Maribel and her children wish to save money for their trip.

Will the new Fee Rule help Maribel and her children?

How to Prepare Your Program

Best Practices: Education & Outreach



Staff Education



Client Education



Community Education & Outreach



Litigation

Best Practices: Current Clients

- **Analysis of client database**
- Identify cases to file asap
 - Fees increasing
 - Deadline
 - Client's wishes & Your capacity + commitments
- Identify cases to hold off on filing
 - Fees decreasing/New fee exemption
 - Schedule a reminder/"tickler"
 - Return filing fees, if applicable
- **Ethics:** Document, document, document

Best Practices: New Case/Consultation

- **Demand**
 - May have increase in demand for family-based cases before April 1
 - May have increase in demand after April 1 for fee decreases/fee exemptions
- **Assess Capacity**
 - Consider different delivery models
- **Update Policies & Procedures**
 - Online filing
- **Update Checklists**

Best Practices: Budget + Leadership

- **Determine impact on budget**
 - Current year
 - Next fiscal year
- **Keep leadership informed**
 - Budget
 - Fundraising strategies
- **Seek out grants and donations**
 - Utilize your data to appeal to funders

Advocacy

Ongoing Advocacy

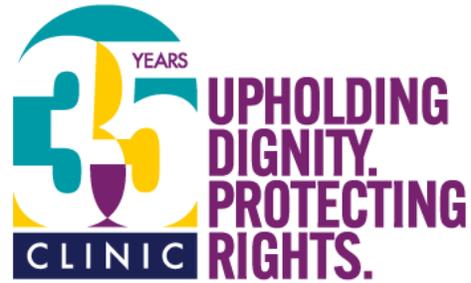
- CLINIC will monitor the implementation of the rule, litigation regarding the rule, and any guidance issued.
- Once the rule takes effect, **CLINIC Affiliates** should report USCIS errors or unexpected results to advocacy@cliniclegal.org.
- Naturalization advocacy

CLINIC Resources

- Become a CLINIC Affiliate
 - [CLINIC Membership Info Page](#)
 - [CLINIC Subscription Info Page](#)
- CLINIC Support Services
 - [Ask the Experts](#)
 - [Affiliate Support Form](#)
 - [Case Escalation](#)
- CLINIC Action Network
- Advocacy Roundtables
- Be sure to [subscribe to our email lists](#) to stay informed about this issue.

Links to USCIS Resources

- [USCIS Fee Rule FAQ](#)
- Form G-1055
- [Landing page](#)
- [Draft Redline Version](#)
- [USCIS Fee Calculator](#) – will be updated 4/1/24
- USCIS FPG Income Guidelines
- [I-912P Supplement](#) for Fee Waiver Request
- [I-942P Supplement](#) for Reduced Naturalization Fee



Embracing the Gospel value of welcoming the stranger, CLINIC promotes the dignity and protects the rights of immigrants in partnership with a dedicated network of Catholic and community legal immigration programs.

cliniclegal.org