



## FAQ: Registration Requirements for Undocumented Immigrants

The Trump Administration recently announced a process for some people who are not U.S. citizens to register with the government. Registration could lead to deportation from the U.S. It is important to understand what this process is and to whom it applies so that you can make an informed decision about what to do.

### What is registration?

Non-citizen registration stems from the [Alien Registration Act of 1940](#), which was focused on national security, and required non-citizens to be fingerprinted and registered with the federal government. Historically the U.S. has not used registration consistently; instead, it was selectively used to target Chinese, Muslim, Japanese, and Korean communities. In 2002, the government created a special registration system for men from primarily Muslim countries. Over 80,000 people registered. Many of them, although not all, were then put into removal proceedings, detained, and/or deported.

### Who has to register?

Many people do **not** need to register under this rule. Some of the groups who are already considered registered and/or do not need to register are:

- U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents;
- People who were paroled into the US under INA § 212(d)(5)\*;
- People who received a Form I-94 at admission\*;
- People issued immigrant or nonimmigrant visas prior to arrival\*;
- People in removal proceedings and those with removal orders;
- People with an employment authorization document (EAD)\*;
- People who applied for immigration benefits using Forms I-485, I-590, I-687, I-691, I-698, I-700, or I-817, even if the applications were denied.

**\*Does not matter if parole, admission period, work authorization period or visa is now expired.**

Note that getting an ITIN or paying taxes alone does *not* mean you are registered. Only people in one of the categories above are considered already registered. If you are unsure if you need to register, you may wish to consult with an attorney or trusted legal service provider.

### What if I have DACA or TPS or I applied for asylum?

If you have a work authorization document (EAD) because you have or applied for DACA, TPS or asylum, or have advance parole related to these applications, then you are considered to be in compliance with this rule. But DACA, TPS or a pending asylum application *alone*, without an EAD, are not sufficient.

### **If I don't need to register, how can I show that?**

You should make sure you know what documents to present in case you are asked for proof of registration. What document that will be depends on your specific situation. Some examples of documents that you can show include:

- I-862 Notice to Appear or other proof of pending immigration court case
- Employment Authorization Document (EAD) ("Work Permit")
- Receipt notice for I-485, Application for Status as a Permanent Resident
- I-94 Arrival-Departure Record
- Lawful Permanent Resident Card ("Green Card")

### **What is the process to register?**

The new registration rule goes into effect on April 11, 2025. Currently the process to register is online and is free. The first step is to create or log into your existing [my.uscis.gov](https://my.uscis.gov) account. The second is to complete the Form G325-R online. The form asks a wide range of questions including about how you entered the U.S., your home address, criminal history, and family. It also asks how long you intend to stay in the U.S.

### **What about children?**

- For children under the age of 14 required to register, their parents or legal guardians are supposed to register for them but they will not be required to complete biometrics.
- For children over the age of 14 or who will turn 14 in 30 days, they will need to do the same registration process as adults.

### **What happens if I don't register?**

Individuals who are required to register and do not register are at risk of criminal or civil penalties. It is too early to know how common these kinds of penalties will be.

### **What happens if I do register?**

Signing up to register could be very dangerous for undocumented immigrants. The government can and likely will use registration data to locate, detain and deport people from the U.S. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) says, according to the online registration form it has publicized, that it **"may share the information you provide on this registration with other Federal, state, local, and foreign government agencies and other authorized organizations."** It is also possible that DHS will target some individuals for criminal prosecution even if they register, such as for illegal entry or reentry.

Once you register, you might be asked to appear for biometrics (unless you have already provided biometrics to the government), you will then receive a registration card that all individuals over 18 years old must carry at all times.

## **Other Resources**

There are many helpful resources on registration and what it means:

- IARC:  
<https://immigrantheelpny.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/35404580766740-Immigrant-Registration-What-is-it-Should-I-register>
- Legal Aid Society:  
<https://legalaidnyc.org/what-attorneys-need-to-know-about-non-citizen-registration/>
- National Immigration Legal Center FAQ document:  
<https://www.nilc.org/resources/faq-non-citizen-registration-requirement-in-trump-day-1-executive-order/>

**For more information on affirming your rights visit: [weprotectusny.org](http://weprotectusny.org)**