

## Apply for EMERGENCY Advance Parole as a DACA recipient

### What is Emergency AP?

An [advance parole](#) (AP) document allows non-U.S. citizens who are living in the U.S. to temporarily travel abroad and re-enter the country. Before leaving the U.S., noncitizens, including DACA recipients, **MUST** obtain an AP document.

DACA recipients can request AP only if they will travel for employment, humanitarian, or educational reasons. Currently (July 2023), it takes about four to [eight months](#) for USCIS to process a mailed AP application. But if a DACA recipient **needs to travel urgently for humanitarian reasons, they can apply for emergency AP in person at their local USCIS field office.**

***Note: Requesting emergency advance parole is not a substitute for delaying your Advance Parole application. This should only be used for emergency situations. To avoid delays in your travel plans, mail in your AP application about 8 months before your intended travel dates.***

DACA recipients have applied for and obtained an AP document to travel for an emergency humanitarian purpose. **Some examples include:**

- a medical procedure that the DACA recipient urgently needs and is unable to access in the U.S.
- being a caregiver to a family member undergoing their own medical procedure or other emergency;
- visiting a very sick/ailing family member;
- or attending a funeral.

**Talk to an immigration lawyer who can explain your specific risks of traveling outside the U.S. and coming back.** USCIS may grant a DACA recipient an advance parole document even if it is not in the applicant's best interest to travel abroad. If you need general information about AP, check out this [guide](#).

**Important Note: USCIS grants DACA recipients advance parole at its discretion. When USCIS field officers review emergency AP applications, they have the power to decide whether the travel need is urgent. The USCIS field office may not approve your emergency AP application and may tell you to apply with USCIS by mail.**

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## How to Request Emergency Advance Parole

### Step 1: Gather all necessary documents

1. A completed and signed [Form I-131](#), Application for Travel Document (this cannot be filed online).
2. The Form I-131 filing fee in the form of a check or credit/debit card (money orders are not accepted at the field office). The fee is currently \$575, but applicants should check the USCIS [website](#) before filing.
3. Two passport-style photos.
4. A copy of your Employment Authorization Document and/or most recent DACA Approval Notice.
5. Your written statement explaining your immediate need to travel.
6. Evidence to support the emergency request
  - a. To support traveling for an urgent humanitarian purpose, applicants can include medical documentation, doctor's notes, relative's letter, death certificate, funeral arrangements, etc.
  - b. Tips:
    - i. Remember that documents that are not in English must be accompanied by a certified translation.
    - ii. Keep in mind that a notarized letter from a relative can support other documents you provide, but will likely not be enough on its own. For example, a death certificate or a letter from the funeral home is stronger evidence than a letter from a family member about the recent death.
7. A cover letter explaining the purpose of travel and summarizing the documents included in your application ([see example](#)) (**optional**)
8. A copy of the biographic page of your current, valid passport (**optional**)

[Full Advance Parole Guide Here](#)

### Step 2: Call USCIS

Call the USCIS Contact Center at **800-375-5283**. (Please note that it may be hard to get through the automated system and speak with a human.) Tell them you need an in-person (or "InfoPass") appointment for an "emergency advance parole document" because you need to travel as soon as possible. Be prepared to summarize the urgent humanitarian reason for which you must travel abroad. USCIS will then call you back within three working days to schedule an in-person appointment at your local USCIS field office.

### Step 3: In-person Appointment

Take your complete application with you to your in-person appointment. After checking in, you will meet with a USCIS officer at one of the windows at the front of the waiting room. Your emergency advance parole request will be granted or denied at the time of the in-person appointment. If you are granted emergency advance parole, you will need to pay the \$575 filing fee. The easiest way to do this at a field office is by credit or debit card; the field offices do not accept money orders.

### **Be Your Best Advocate**

This will be your only opportunity to explain why you need your advance parole document immediately. Practice explaining in one or two sentences the nature of the emergency.

**Every USCIS field office and supervisor exercises their discretion in approving or denying emergency advance parole.** Even if you present evidence that your case is an emergency, the field office may not issue you an advance parole document and may direct you to file your application by mail with the USCIS service center.

If you decide to apply for emergency AP again, you can update your evidence to demonstrate why you have an urgent need to travel. You will then have to go through Steps 2 and 3 above.

### **Use All Your Resources**

There are ways to advocate for yourself even further:

- Ask your Representative in Congress if they can advocate for you with the USCIS office. This is a common request and remember that your Congressional Representatives work for YOU! Don't be afraid to reach out. Find your Representative here: [www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative)
- If you have a lawyer, ask them to help you schedule your appointment and accompany you to your appointment (or help you practice advocating for yourself if you go alone).
- Remember that during this type of request, YOU are your biggest advocate.

## **Mental Health Resources**

Applying for advance parole is exhausting, both emotionally and financially.

- It makes us dream of something that may not be within reach.
- Getting a denial is soul crushing, especially after all that work.
- Imagining yourself in a different country after years of being inside the U.S. can in itself stir many emotions. Especially if you are traveling for humanitarian reasons.
- Re-entering the U.S. may also come with stress and anxiety. See our [other advance parole guide](#) for helpful advice to keep in mind when re-entering the U.S.

Remember to take care of yourself before, during, and after the AP process. See [here](#) for mental health resources to help you during this.

## **More Resources for Advance Parole**

If you have more questions about re-entering the country, risks, and additional resources please see our full advance parole [guide](#).

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**How much does emergency advance parole cost?**

Emergency advance parole costs the same as a non-emergency [I-131 application](#) — \$575.

**Can I file an emergency advance parole application online?**

No. EMERGENCY I-131s are filed in-person at your local USCIS field office. DACA recipients may apply for non-emergency advance parole by mailing their application to the address indicated on this [page](#) under “Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)”. For more information on how to file a non-emergency advance parole visit this [guide](#).

**What if I’m denied?**

If you are denied emergency advance parole, you will be directed to apply for non-emergency advance parole by mailing an application to USCIS. If you have additional evidence supporting your urgent need to travel, you may apply for emergency AP at the field office again, keeping in mind that the same field office will decide whether or not they grant you an advance parole document. For a guide to applying for non-emergency advance parole see [here](#).

**Should I still apply for advance parole while DACA is being challenged in the federal court system in Texas?**

Currently, the case is back in a U.S. District Court where it awaits a decision from Judge Hanen. There is a “stay” that allows existing DACA recipients to continue renewing their DACA authorization. It is likely that this stay will remain in place while the case moves up to the appeals court and then the Supreme Court. USCIS affirmed that it will continue to adjudicate DACA recipients’ advance parole applications. See more on the court case [here](#).

If your application for advance parole has been approved, you can plan on traveling while we wait for a decision from the federal court in Texas. If a decision comes out while you are traveling abroad, please check the USCIS DACA FAQs for updates.

**What if I applied for AP by mail, but need expedited processing?**

USCIS field offices can grant expedited processing for an advance parole document to individuals who:

- Have already submitted an application by mail
- The application has been pending for several months
- The departure date is approaching
- Their travel request meets the USCIS [criteria](#) for expediting decisions (e.g. severe financial loss, emergencies, and humanitarian reasons, etc.).

If you find yourself in this situation, you can call USCIS for an in-person appointment (or InfoPass) at your local field office for the purpose of “urgent travel with an advance parole

document.”The USCIS field officer may grant an advance parole document at the appointment, request the service center to expedite their decision, or tell the applicant to wait for a decision. USCIS may also request the DACA recipient to file a new I-131 in person and pay another filing fee then and there, although some USCIS field offices don’t do this in practice.

Evidence: To support a decision on a Form I-131 that was already filed, applicants can include documents that support the expedite criteria and the immediate need for a decision, such as documenting a relative’s illness or death, a flight booking, date of an event for which they need to travel abroad, cost of program to travel abroad, etc.