

# Preparing For Your Asylum Interview

## What Do You Bring to Your Interview?

### On the day of your affirmative asylum interview you should bring:

- A form of identification, including:
  - Any passports you may have,
  - Other travel or identification documents, and
  - Form I-94, Arrival-Departure Record, if you received one when you arrived in the U.S.
- The originals of any birth certificates, marriage certificates, or other documents you previously submitted with your [Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal](#),
- A copy of your Form I-589 and any additional material that you previously submitted in case the asylum office is missing any of this information;
- Any additional items you have available that document your claim and that you have not already submitted with your application;
- An interpreter if you are not able to continue with the interview in English,
- Your spouse and/or children under 21, if they were included in your asylum application as [derivatives](#) at the time you filed your application;
  - They must bring any identity, travel or other supporting documents they have in their possession.
  - Although you are required to list all of your family members on your application, the only family members you need to bring to the interview are those who will be included as derivatives in the asylum decision.
- A certified translation of any document that is not in English;
  - Any document in a language other than English must be accompanied by an English translation that the translator has certified is complete and correct.
  - The translator must certify that they are competent to translate the language used in the document into English.

You have the right to bring an attorney or representative to your interview at no cost to the U.S. government. You and your attorney/representative must submit [Form G-28, Notice of Entry of](#)

[Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative](#) to USCIS, in order for your attorney/representative to accompany you to your asylum interview.

### More Information For Your Interview

#### **What happens if I miss my interview?**

Shortly after you miss your interview, you will receive a “Failure to Appear Warning Letter” from the asylum office where your interview was scheduled to occur. This letter explains the consequences of missing your interview and how to request a rescheduled interview before referral to immigration court for removal proceedings.

**If they receive your request within 45 days after your missed interview date,** you must establish good cause for failing to appear for your interview.

**If they receive your request more than 45 days after your missed interview date,** you must establish exceptional circumstances for failing to appear.

If 46 days have passed and the asylum office has not received a request to reschedule your interview and:

1. **You are not in lawful immigration status,** the asylum office will refer your case to an immigration judge for adjudication before EOIR and send you a “Referral Notice for Failure to Appear.” (For information on requests made after a case is referred to the immigration court, see the [Establishing Good Cause or Exceptional Circumstances](#) page.)
2. **You are in lawful immigration status,** the asylum office will administratively close your case and send you a “Dismissal of Asylum Application – Failure to Appear.”

They will consider your failure to appear for your asylum interview an applicant-caused delay with regard to employment authorization. You may file a Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, based on your pending asylum application 150 days after you filed your asylum application. You are not eligible to receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) until your asylum application has been pending for at least another 30 days, for a total of 180 days.

More information about establishing exceptional circumstances is available on the [Establishing Good Cause or Exceptional Circumstances](#) webpage.

### **How do I reschedule my interview?**

If you need to reschedule your interview before the scheduled appointment, you must either:

- Mail, fax or email a letter to the asylum office where your interview is scheduled to be held; or
- Go to that asylum office and complete an In-Person Reschedule Request.

The asylum office will not honor a request to reschedule received by telephone. A request to reschedule an asylum interview must include the reason for the request and any relevant evidence.

The office will notify you in writing whether or not your interview will be rescheduled and will send you a new interview appointment notice with the new interview date, time and location. For the purpose of employment authorization, an approved request to reschedule is an applicant-caused delay that will be resolved on the date you appear for your rescheduled appointment. You may file a Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, based on your pending asylum application 150 days after you filed your asylum application. You are not eligible to receive an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) until your asylum application has been pending for at least another 30 days, for a total of 180 days. 8 CFR 208.7(a)(1).

You must prove that your request for rescheduling is due to **good cause**, if you need to reschedule and:

- You have already rescheduled your interview 1 time; or
- You are requesting to reschedule on the date of the interview; or
- You failed to appear for your interview and you are making your request within 45 days of the missed interview date.

You must prove that your request for rescheduling is due to **exceptional circumstances** if:

- You failed to appear for your interview and you are making your request more than 45 days after your missed interview date.

Exceptional circumstances are a higher standard than good cause. More information about establishing good cause and exceptional circumstances is available on the [Establishing Good Cause or Exceptional Circumstances](#) webpage.

**NOTE:** Rescheduling your interview will result in an applicant-caused delay that will remain unresolved until you appear for your rescheduled interview.

**NOTE:** If the interview notice was not mailed to the most recent address you provided to USCIS, then the asylum office will reschedule the interview without requiring that you show good cause or exceptional circumstances.

### **What should I expect on the day of my interview?**

Your interview will generally last at least an hour, although the time may vary depending on your case. You will be asked to take an oath promising to tell the truth during the interview. Your interpreter will also take an oath promising to interpret accurately and truthfully. The asylum officer will verify your identity, ask you basic biographical questions and the reasons you are applying for asylum, and questions to determine if any bars will prevent you from applying for or being granted asylum.

For more information on the bars to asylum, please visit our [Asylum Bars](#) page.

The asylum officer will know that it may be difficult for you to talk about traumatic and painful experiences that caused you to leave your country. However, it is very important that you talk about your experiences so that the asylum officer can determine whether you qualify for a grant of asylum.

The information you share with the asylum officer is confidential. In general, information related to your asylum claim cannot be shared with third parties without your written consent or specific authorization by the Secretary of Homeland Security. There are certain exceptions to this rule, however, which can be found in the confidentiality regulation (See 8 CFR 208.6). For more information on confidentiality and the asylum process, please visit the [Fact Sheet on Asylum Confidentiality](#).

You and your attorney or representative, if you have one present, will have time at the end of the interview to make a statement or add any additional information. A decision on your case will not be made at the asylum interview. For the legal regulations governing asylum interviews, see 8 CFR 208.9.

