

## FAMILY PREFERENCE SYSTEM

## Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

## I-130, Petition for Alien Relative

IS YOUR FAMILY MEMBER A U.S. CITIZEN OR LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDEN --AND-- IS THAT FAMILY MEMBER ABLE TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT YOU UPON ARRIVAL TO THE UNITED STATES?

YES 🗌	NO 🗌			
IF NO, YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE. IF YES, PROCEED TO THE APPROPRIATE CHART.				

IF YOUR FAMILY MEMBER IS 21 YEARS OR OLDER AND A A U.S. CITIZEN CONTINUE HERE:			
	YES	NO	EXPLANATION
1. ARE YOU THE SPOUSE, FIANCÉ(E)*, PARENT, OR MINOR CHILD (UNDER 21) OF A			IF NO, proceed to question 2.  IF YES, congratulations! You qualify for one of the easiest and fastest ways to legally immigrate to the United States, and you will probably wait only 5 to 15 months to receive a visa. There is no limit on the number of visas for spouses, parents, or minor children of U.S. citizens.
U.S. CITIZEN?		*Fiancé(e) visas are a separate case—applicants may receive a temporary visa, must marry a U.S. citizen within 90 days of arrival, and then may apply to readjust their status to become a legal permanent resident.	
2. ARE YOU A SIBLING OF A U.S. CITIZEN?			IF NO, proceed to question 3.  IF YES, congratulations. The siblings of U.S. citizens can apply for a visa, though wait time depends on home country and marital status. Your average wait will be 11 to 22 years.
3. ARE YOU THE ADULT CHILD (21 OR OLDER) OF A U.S. CITIZEN?			IF NO, sorry. Other relatives (cousins, aunts, uncles, etc.) do not qualify for the family visa preference system.  IF YES, proceed to question 4.
4. ARE YOU MARRIED?			IF NO, congratulations. You are eligible to apply for a visa and will probably wait 6 to 14 years to receive it.  IF YES, you and your spouse and children are also eligible for entry. However, you will probably wait 7 to 15 years before being able to legally enter the country.
IF YOUR FAMILY MEMBER IS 21 YEARS OR OLDER AND A LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT CONTINUE HERE:			
	YES	NO	EXPLANATION
1. ARE YOU THE SPOUSE OR CHILD OF A LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT?			IF NO, sorry. Siblings, parents, and adult children are not eligible for a visa from the family preference system. Your legal permanent resident family member will have to become a citizen when they qualify, and then they can petition for you within 3 to 5 years.  IF YES, proceed to question 2.
2. ARE YOU THE SPOUSE OR <b>MINOR</b> CHILD (UNDER 21) OF A LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT?			IF NO, proceed to question 3.  IF YES, congratulations. You are eligible to apply for a visa, though the wait time will depend on your home country. On average, you will wait 5 to 7 years before receiving a visa to immigrate to the U.S.
3. ARE YOU THE <b>SINGLE</b> , ADULT CHILD OF A LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT?			IF NO, sorry. Married adult children of legal permanent residents are not eligible for visas in the family preference system. Your legal permanent resident family member must become a citizen in order to petition for you under the family preference system.  IF YES, you are eligible for a visa to immigrate to the U.S. The amount of time you will wait depends on your home country, but the average is 9 to 14 years.