Immigration and Key Documents: An Overview

A presentation to the Behavioral Health & Homelessness Statewide Unified Response Group (BHHSURG)
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Agenda

- Immigration 101
- COFA and the I-94
- Lawful Permanent Residents and the “Green Card”
- Employment Authorization Card
Immigration 101
The Agencies

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
- Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)
- Ended in 2002 and became DHS

Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR)
Immigration Statuses Overview

- Undocumented (EWI, visa overstay)
  - “Non-immigrant” status (tourist, student, temporary agricultural worker, COFA)
  - “Temporary status” (DACA, TPS)

- Asylum/Refugee
  - SIJ Status
    - U-visa / T-visa / VAWA

- Lawful Permanent Resident (Green Card Holder)
  - Family visa/“adjustment of status”
  - Job visa/ “adjustment of status”

- U.S. Citizen
  - Naturalization
COFA and the I-94
What is COFA “status”? 

The Compact of Free Association treaty creates a special way for individuals from the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to enter, live, and work in the United States indefinitely.

- All you need is your passport and I-94
- Can get employment, driver’s license, and benefits like housing and Unemployment Insurance
- COFA does not provide a pathway to a green card or citizenship
What is COFA “status”? 

- Otherwise, all the other laws of immigration apply.
- If children are born in the U.S., then they are U.S. citizens
- They can switch to different “statuses” just like any other non-citizen
  - E.g. Their U.S. citizen child turns 21-years-old and can sponsor them for a green card
  - E.g. They are a victim of a crime and get a U-visa
- Subject to the same grounds of “deportability” and “inadmissibility” as other immigrants (e.g., criminal convictions— including what you might consider very minor crimes!)
I-94: What is an I-94?

ני A record of your arrival into the United States
ני Has the I-94 number (aka admissions number)
ני For individuals here through COFA, this is the document you need to access many things, like employment, driver’s license, and benefits like housing and Unemployment Insurance
ני Does not expire!
3 Ways to Get Your I-94

For COFA immigrants, this is your immigration document for jobs, licenses, housing and more! The I-94 number is also the \"admission number.\"

1. **Within five years** of entering the U.S., print your I-94 at:
   [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#!/recent-search](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#!/recent-search)
   Fill in name, birthday, passport number, and country. **That's it!**

2. **After five years**, submit a **free** "FOIA" request. Go to:
   [https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/request](https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/request)
   You need an **email address**.
   Fill in: "CBP FOIA Division" for \"Agency\" and \"I-94\" for \"Type of Records Requested.\" Put down any number for \"Will Pay Up To,\" but don't worry, it is free.
   The government will email the I-94. It may take over a month.

3. **After five years**, for $445, you can request a **formal I-94**. Go to: [https://www.uscis.gov/i-102](https://www.uscis.gov/i-102)

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3 Wewin ko ŋan Bŏk I-94 Eo

Ñan COFA immigrant ro, pepa in immigration eo am in ŋan jerbal, kōmman license, kabbok imôn jokwe im ebar lōŋ wewin ko jet! I-94 nōmba eo ej bareinwōt “admission number” eo am ak nōmba in dreloŋtok eo am.

1. Ilowaan iio ko lalem kwar dreloŋtok ilo U.S., print-i I-94 eo ilo https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#/recent-search
   Je etam, raan in lōtak, passport nōmba eo, im lal eo kwōj itok jene. Edre kein melele.

2. Elkin lalem iiō, kōmmane juŋn free “FOIA” request. (Ejjelok wōnen) Etal ŋan:
   https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/request

3 Ifa Usun Kopwe Angei Noumw I-94

Ngeni ekkewe wasona seni COFA, iei noumw we taropwen ami wasona won ei fénú fan itan angang, naisen, imweimw me pwan ekkóóch

1. Non nimu ierin omw tonong non U.S., a tongeni printini noumw I-91 won: [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#!/recent-search](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94/#!/recent-search)
   Makkenong itomw, upwutiwomw, nampa noumw passport, me fénúomw (country). **Ina chok!**


MLPC Hawai‘i A Saiongon Siwini: May 12, 2020

Chuukese
let Wiepe 3, ong ni Duwen Omwi Pahn Alehdi Noumw I-94

Ong tohn COFA me kin seiloak kan, doaropwe wet ihme ke pahn doadoahngki ong audehda doaropwehn doadoahk kan, laisens kan, wasahn kouson kan oh pi ong ire me tohto! Nempehn I-94 wet pil ieite nempe me kahdaneki "admission number."

1. Nin doken de mwohn sounpar limau sang rahn me ke pidolong nan U.S., wiahda koapi en de pirindi noumw I-94 sang nan wepsaid wet: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/recent-search Ni omwi pahn audehda onlai pwworm wet, kihdi edomw, sounpwong, rahn, oh sounpar en omwi ipwidi, nempehn noumw pahspord, oh eden wehi lap me ke sang ie (FSM). Ihnte duwehn me!


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Pohnpeian
What does the I-94 look like?

Below 2013: Paper Copy

After 2013: Online Copy
Print out within 5 years!

I-94 Number (aka Admission Number)

Individuals can visit [www.cbp.gov/I94](http://www.cbp.gov/I94) to retrieve a copy of their electronic Form I-94.
What does the I-94 look like?

From the free CBP FOIA

I-94 Number (aka Admission Number)

From the USCIS Application
Lawful Permanent Residents and the “Green Card”
What is LPR status?

- An individual with Lawful Permanent Resident Status (aka LPR, green card holder) can **live and work** in the United States without restrictions.
- The **LPR status does not expire**, even if the card itself is expired.
- Still subject to “deportability” (e.g., criminal convictions—including what you might consider very minor crimes!)

A-number (aka alien registration number, USCIS number)
How do you become a legal permanent resident?

Through a family member who is a US citizen (or in some cases LPR):

- Spouse
- Parent
- Children over age the age 21
- Siblings

Through a job that will “sponsor” you for a visa

Other special circumstances
Renewing your green card

❖ “Form I-90” application to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services: https://www.uscis.gov/i-90

❖ There is a still a fee waiver for those who cannot afford the fee: https://www.uscis.gov/i-912
How do you qualify for a fee waiver?

Three ways:

1. A “means-tested” benefit (e.g. SNAP, TANF) received by you, your spouse, or head of household, OR

2. Household income is at or below 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines, OR


Need to submit documents for whichever category you fall under!
Lawful permanent resident (LPR) (green card holder) → US Citizen

- “N-400” application to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services: https://www.uscis.gov/n-400
- There is a still a fee waiver for those who cannot afford the fee: https://www.uscis.gov/i-912
EAD: Employment Authorization Document
What is the Employment Authorization Document?

- A document from US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that shows that you are allowed to work in the US
- NOT required for employment if you are from FSM or RMI (through COFA)
- Can be used as a form of ID

A-number (aka alien registration number, USCIS number)
Thank you!