



# Global Refuge

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## Information for Newly-Arrived Afghan SIV Entrants

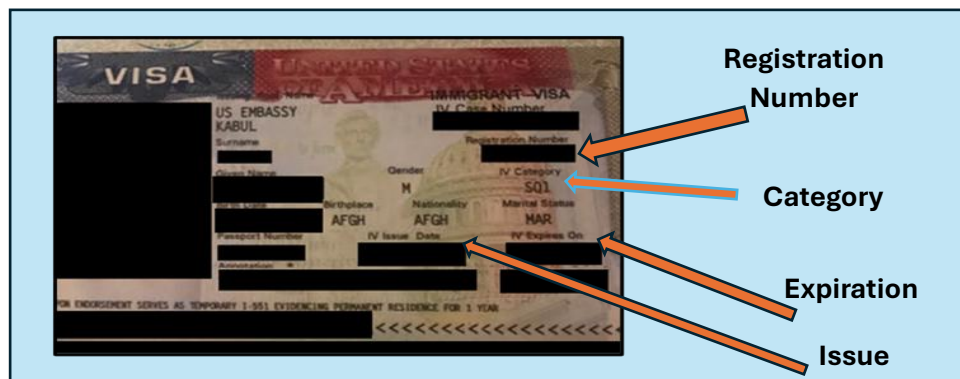
Congratulations, you have received your Special Immigrant Visa and entered the United States as a lawful permanent resident! Welcome to the United States!

This guide is for Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients who have already entered the United States and who need proof of Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) status, in other words a green card. While the initial LPR **documentation** is temporary, LPR **status** is valid indefinitely. Lawful Permanent Residence is a permanent status. Only an immigration judge can take away LPR status. (For information about how to apply for a SIV, see [IRAP](#) guidance)

### 1. Understand Your Entry Documents

When your SIV was issued at the U.S. Consulate abroad, it included an annotation that says, “UPON ENDORSEMENT SERVES AS TEMPORARY I-551 EVIDENCING PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOR 1 YEAR.”

**Example:** SIV - some of the SIV categories are SQ1, SQ2, SQ3, SW1, SW2, SW3



When you arrive in the United States and present your visa and passport to immigration officials, you will be inspected and granted admission.

- Evidence of your inspection and admission as a Lawful Permanent Resident is **the ink stamp** placed on the passport page that bears the date of entry. [This is called an endorsement.](#)
- The endorsement, along with the SIV visa that was issued by the U.S. Consulate, becomes your temporary green card **valid for one year** after entry to the United States.
- You don't need a work permit. The visa and entry stamp in your passport serves as a temporary green card.



## **2. Update Your Address with USCIS**

USCIS will mail your green card to the address you provided on your SIV application. It may take several weeks for your green card to arrive after you enter the United States. If you change your home address, ensure the new address is provided to USCIS. You may do this by updating your address through the USCIS website. USCIS has instructions for updating your mailing address [here](#). Alternatively, you can update your address by filing [Form AR-11](#) by mail.

## **3. If Your Social Security Card is Not Delivered To Your Home Address**

If you don't receive your social security card within three weeks of being admitted to the United States, go into the nearest Social Security office with proof of age, identity, and LPR status and request a replacement card: <https://www.ssa.gov/locator>.

## **4. If Your Green Card Is Not Delivered Within 90 Days**

If you have not received your green card within 90 days of your entry to the United States, continue to use your temporary documents. Your passport with the immigrant visa stamp is evidence that you were granted LPR status.

- Keep a copy of your **visa stamp** as ongoing evidence of your LPR status.
- **Contact USCIS customer service by telephone:**  
The USCIS customer service phone number is 1-800-375-5283.  
When you call, you will be asked to provide your address, phone number, names and birth dates, and your nine-digit A number. Be sure to take notes during your call, including the date and time of the call and ask the person you speak to for their “officer number” and take note of any case number they offer.
- **Keep Track of All Documentation**  
Keep a record of all correspondence with USCIS, including any receipts, tracking numbers, and emails.

## **5. If USCIS Has Mailed Your Green Card But You Did Not Receive It**

If the USCIS informs you that the green card was mailed to your address of record, but you did not receive the card in the mail, may be required to file an [Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card \(Form I-90\)](#) to request a replacement.

## **6: Understand Your Right to Work in the United States**

When you are first hired, your new employer must complete Form I-9 and inspect your documents to verify your identity and employment authorization.

Federal law prohibits employers from discriminating against job applicants. If an employer does not understand that you are authorized to work in the United States, you can seek assistance from the office of [Immigrant and Employee Rights \(IER\)](#).