



# I Am a Young Person Who Arrived in the United States as a Child (Childhood Arrival)

**How Do I...Request Consideration of  
Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals?**



U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the United States as children and meet several key guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and, as a result, may be eligible for work authorization.

Only individuals who can demonstrate through verifiable documentation that they meet these guidelines will be considered for deferred action under this process. Determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis under the guidelines set forth in the Secretary of Homeland Security's memorandum.

### **How do I know if I may request consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals?**

You may request consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals if you:

1. Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
2. Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
3. Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
4. Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS;
5. Entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or your lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012;
6. Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; and
7. Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

## **How do I request consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals?**

Beginning August 15, 2012, you will be required to submit your request for consideration of deferred action to USCIS through a form, along with a form requesting an employment authorization document. The total fees will be \$465. USCIS expects to have the forms and instructions available on its website on August 15, 2012. Do not submit any request to USCIS before these forms are available. All requests received before August 15, 2012 will be rejected.

## **What evidence should I submit with my request for consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals?**

Evidence, including supporting documents, that you file with your request for deferred action should show that you meet the guidelines outlined in the section above entitled "How do I know if I may request consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals?". This includes evidence that you:

1. You were born after June 15, 1981;
2. Arrived in the United States before the age of 16;
3. Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
4. Were present in the United States on June 15, 2012;
5. Entered without inspection before June 15, 2012 or your lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012;
6. Are currently in school, graduated or received a certificate of completion from high school, obtained a general educational development certificate (GED), or that you are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or U.S. Armed Forces; and
7. Are at least 15 years of age at the time of filing, if you have never been in removal proceedings or if your case was terminated before your request.

Beginning August 15, 2012, information about specific documents that may satisfy these guidelines will be made available on the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals](http://www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals).

**Does this process apply to me if I am currently in removal proceedings, have a final removal order, or have a voluntary departure order?**

This process is open to any individual who can demonstrate he or she meets the guidelines for consideration, including those who have never been in removal proceedings as well as those in removal proceedings, with a final order, or with a voluntary departure order (as long as they are not in immigration detention). If you are not in immigration detention and want to affirmatively request consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals you must submit your request to USCIS. You do not need to be 15 years of age or older at the time of filing your request if you are in removal proceedings, have a final removal order, or have a voluntary departure order. All cases will be considered on an individual basis.

Submit a copy of the removal order or any document issued by the immigration judge or the final decision from the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), if available. If you have not been in removal proceedings, this requirement does not apply to you.

**Do brief departures interrupt the requirement of having continuous residence in the United States since June 15, 2007?**

A brief, casual, and innocent absence from the United States will not interrupt your continuous residence. If you were absent from the United States for any period of time, your absence will be considered brief, casual, and innocent, if it was before August 15, 2012, and:

1. The absence was short and reasonably calculated to accomplish the purpose for the absence;
2. The absence was not because of an order of exclusion, deportation, or removal;

3. The absence was not because of an order of voluntary departure, or an administrative grant of voluntary departure before you were placed in exclusion, deportation, or removal proceedings; and
4. The purpose of the absence and/or your actions while outside the United States were not contrary to law.

Beginning August 15, 2012, additional information about specific documents that may show your absence was brief, casual, and innocent, will be available on the USCIS website at [www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals](http://www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals).

### **Will USCIS conduct a background check when reviewing my request for consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals?**

Yes. You must undergo biographic and biometric background checks before USCIS will consider whether to exercise prosecutorial discretion under the consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals process. If you have been convicted of any felony, a significant misdemeanor offense, three or more misdemeanor offenses not occurring on the same date and not arising out of the same act, omission, or scheme of misconduct, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety, you will not be considered for deferred action for childhood arrivals except if DHS determines there are exceptional circumstances.

### **What happens after I submit my request for consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals?**

Each request for consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals will be reviewed on an individual, case-by-case basis. You will be notified of USCIS's determination in writing. USCIS may request more information or evidence, or may request that you appear at a USCIS office. There is no appeal or motion

to reopen/reconsider the denial of a request for consideration of deferred action of childhood arrivals.

### **Can I extend the period for which removal action will be deferred in my case?**

Yes. Unless terminated, individuals whose case is deferred pursuant to the consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals process will not be placed into removal proceedings or removed from the United States for a period of two years. You may request consideration for an extension of that period of deferred action. You must also request an extension of your employment authorization at that time. Your request for an extension will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Will the information I share in my request for consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals be used for immigration enforcement purposes?**

Information provided in this request is protected from disclosure to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) for the purpose of immigration enforcement proceedings unless the requestor meets the criteria for the issuance of a Notice To Appear or a referral to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the criteria set forth in USCIS's Notice to Appear guidance at [www.uscis.gov/NTA](http://www.uscis.gov/NTA). Individuals whose cases are deferred pursuant to the consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals process will not be referred to ICE. The information may be shared with national security and law enforcement agencies, including ICE and CBP, for purposes other than removal, including for assistance in the consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals, to identify or prevent fraudulent claims, for national security purposes, or for the investigation or prosecution of a criminal offense. The above information sharing policy covers family members and guardians, in addition to the requestor.

This policy, which may be modified, superseded, or rescinded at any time without notice, is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by any party in any administrative, civil, or criminal matter.

### **If USCIS does not exercise deferred action in my case, will I be placed in removal proceedings?**

If your request for consideration of deferred action for childhood arrivals is denied, USCIS will apply its policy guidance governing the referral of cases to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the issuance of Notices to Appear (NTA). If your case does not involve a criminal offense, fraud, or a threat to national security or public safety, your case will not be referred to ICE for purposes of removal proceedings except if DHS determines there are exceptional circumstances. For more detailed information on the applicable NTA policy visit [www.uscis.gov/NTA](http://www.uscis.gov/NTA).

### **Does this process result in lawful status for persons who receive deferred action for childhood arrivals?**

No. Deferring action is only a discretionary determination to defer removal action as an act of prosecutorial discretion and does not provide you with a lawful status.

## **Key Information**

<b>Other U.S. Government Services-Click or Call</b>	
General Information	<a href="http://www.usa.gov">www.usa.gov</a>
New Immigrants	<a href="http://www.welcometoUSA.gov">www.welcometoUSA.gov</a>
U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement	<a href="http://www.ice.gov">www.ice.gov</a>

For more copies of this guide, or information about other customer guides, please visit [www.uscis.gov/howdoi](http://www.uscis.gov/howdoi).

You can also visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) to download forms, e-file some applications, check the status of an application, and more. It's a great place to start!

If you don't have Internet access at home or work, try your local library.

If you cannot find what you need, please call **Customer Service at: 1-800-375-5283**  
*Hearing Impaired TDD Customer Service:*  
*1-800-767-1833*

**Disclaimer:** This guide provides basic information to help you become generally familiar with our rules and procedures. For more information, or the law and regulations, please visit our website. Immigration law can be complex, and it is impossible to describe every aspect of every process. You may wish to be represented by a licensed attorney or by a nonprofit agency accredited by the Board of Immigration Appeals.



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