



June 9, 2021

PA-2021-12

Policy Alert

SUBJECT: USCIS Expedite Criteria and Circumstances

Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is updating policy guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) regarding criteria used to determine whether a case warrants expedited treatment.

Background

Immigration benefit requestors may request that USCIS expedite the adjudication of their benefit request (such as applications or petitions). USCIS considers all expedite requests on a case-by-case basis. USCIS is updating its policy guidance to clarify the criteria and circumstances that may warrant expediting the adjudication of a benefit request.

This update primarily affects Volume 1, Part A of the Policy Manual. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior USCIS guidance.

Policy Highlights

- Clarifies criteria and circumstances under which USCIS will generally consider expedite requests.
- Restores the ability for a nonprofit organization, as determined by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) whose request is in furtherance of the cultural and social interests of the United States, to request discretionary expedited service, even when premium processing is available for that benefit.
- Clarifies that expedite processing of benefit requests for noncitizens with final orders of removal or noncitizens in removal proceedings is coordinated between USCIS and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Citation

Volume 1: General Policies and Procedures, Part A, Public Services, Chapter 5, Requests to Expedite Applications or Petitions [[1 USCIS-PM A.5](#)].