



## Frequently Asked Questions on the Afghan Re-Parole Process

Sept. 7, 2023

Beginning in the summer of 2021, more than 70,000 Afghans were evacuated to the United States after the fall of their country to Taliban forces. The majority were paroled into the United States pursuant to an effort known as Operation Allies Welcome (OAW). While some have been granted lawful permanent resident status, thousands of others are awaiting final resolution of their asylum or permanent residency applications. Many others have not yet applied for any type of immigration relief in the United States.

On June 8, 2023, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a streamlined re-parole process for certain Afghan nationals who were paroled into the United States. Under this new process, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) will conduct a streamlined, case-by-case review for parole extension eligibility of Afghan nationals who have already applied for permanent immigration benefits. Eligible Afghan nationals who have not yet applied for permanent immigration benefits can apply for re-parole under the streamlined process and request an Employment Authorization Document (EAD). There are no filing fees associated with the re-parole process or requests for work authorization under this process.

This practice advisory provides an overview of the newly announced Afghan re-parole program through USCIS. It also addresses questions about eligibility, the application process, and the intersection of re-parole and other immigration benefits. All Afghan nationals who are eligible to apply for re-parole and do not already have pending applications for permanent immigration benefits should apply for re-parole before their initial period of parole expires.

### Who is eligible for re-parole?

To be eligible for re-parole or an extension of parole under the streamlined process, Afghan nationals must have been paroled into the United States on or after July 31, 2021. They must also have an I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, that shows they were paroled under class of admission codes "PAR" (general admission code for parole), "OAR" (Operation Allies Refuge), or "OAW." OAR and OAW are interchangeable for the purpose of the streamlined re-parole/parole extension process. Their I-94s must also show Afghanistan as their country of citizenship for them to be eligible for re-parole or an extension of parole. If an Afghan national received an I-94 that does not show "PAR" or "OAR/OAW" class of admission codes but believes it should, they should check the [I-94 website](#) to confirm that their I-94s were not later updated to reflect PAR or OAR/OAW class of admission codes. If it is not corrected in the I-94 system, these individuals can email U.S. Customs and Border Protection at [oawi94adjustments@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:oawi94adjustments@cbp.dhs.gov) to request that they update their class of admission to PAR or OAR/OAW.

## **Who will be considered for an extension of parole without the need to file Form I-131?**

Only Afghan nationals paroled under PAR or OAR on or after July 31, 2021, and who have pending applications for permanent immigration benefits such as asylum or adjustment of status before their period of original parole expired will be automatically considered on a case-by-case basis for an extension of parole. They do not need to file Form I-131, Application for Travel Document. If USCIS determines that an Afghan evacuee warrants an extension of parole, USCIS will upload Form I-797C, Notice of Additional Action, into their myUSCIS account that will indicate that parole has been extended for two years and that employment is authorized for the duration of the parole extension. USCIS encourages all Afghan nationals to create a myUSCIS account for the re-parole process. If they do not wish to or are unable to create a myUSCIS account, individuals with pending permanent benefit applications should ensure that their address is updated with USCIS, because USCIS will send the I-797C to their last known address. If an individual has moved since they last received correspondence from USCIS and has not yet updated their address with USCIS, they should do so as soon as possible by filing Form [AR-11 online](#).

## **Will USCIS provide Afghan nationals who are automatically considered for an extension of parole with a receipt notice so that they can track the progress of their parole extension?**

No, USCIS has not indicated it will issue receipt notices to those being automatically considered for an extension of parole. USCIS has only confirmed that these individuals will receive an electronic I-797C in their myUSCIS account, or a paper I-797C by regular mail, showing a grant of a parole extension. USCIS encourages individuals who are eligible for this review to create a myUSCIS account in order to quickly access their I-797C once it is available in their accounts.

## **How can legal representatives obtain a copy of their clients' I-797C?**

USCIS indicated that practitioners who would like a copy of their client's I-797C, but who do not have a G-28 on file associated with their client's initial (c)(11) filing, may link the initial (c)(11) EAD receipt number to their myUSCIS account to receive a copy of the I-797C. USCIS also indicated that representatives who only have a G-28 on file for a client's I-589 or I-485, and not for the initial (c)(11) I-765, would not receive a courtesy copy of the I-797C. In practice, however, legal representatives who have a G-28 on file for an individual's asylum or adjustment of status application are receiving a copy of their client's I-797C, even though their G-28 is not associated with the individual's initial (c)(11) EAD filing.

## **Will USCIS send new EADs for those individuals who are automatically considered for an extension of parole?**

No. Afghan nationals who are eligible for the automatic review for a parole extension and who do not file Form I-131 affirmatively will receive an I-797C either in their myUSCIS account or in the mail that will show that they have been granted two-year parole and work authorization incident to parole, and their I-94 will be automatically updated on the I-94 website. The

updated I-94 will serve as proof of employment authorization for 90 days, but after 90 days, individuals granted an extension of parole must present their I-797C and expired (c)(11) EAD, if they have one, to satisfy I-9 document requirements for the duration of their parole extension. If an unexpired, physical EAD is desired, these individuals must then file Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, either online or on paper, with a copy of their I-797C to apply for a new (c)(11) (parole-based) physical EAD. Form I-765 is fee exempted, so no filing fee nor fee waiver request will be required. However, a physical EAD is not required for these individuals since the Form I-797C will show an extension of work authorization and satisfy I-9 requirements for the duration of the parole period.

### **How do individuals without pending applications for permanent immigration benefits apply for re-parole?**

Afghan nationals without pending adjustment of status or asylum applications but who were paroled under PAR or OAW/OAR on or after July 31, 2021, can apply for re-parole and must do so before July 31, 2024. Individuals should apply for re-parole as soon as possible, however, in order to minimize the risk of interruption in their lawful status or ability to work lawfully in the United States.

In order to apply for re-parole, individuals must submit Form I-131 either online or by paper. USCIS encourages individuals to file online to avoid delays and common mistakes and to allow the applicant to track the progress of their application. Individuals are not required to submit Form I-765 with their Form I-131 under this streamlined process in order to apply for an EAD, but they must be sure to indicate on Form I-131 that they are requesting an EAD. There is no fee associated with applying for re-parole. They will receive a USCIS receipt notice on their myUSCIS account after filing Form I-131, or by mail if they file by paper. This receipt notice will not serve as proof of employment authorization nor show that re-parole has been granted. They can track the progress of their re-parole request through their myUSCIS account, or they can use the USCIS receipt number to check their case status using the USCIS case status check website: <https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/landing.do>.

If the re-parole applicant's address is not up to date in the USCIS system, filing Form I-131 online will change their address without the need to file an AR-11.

### **If a re-parole applicant's initial (c)(11) (parole-based) EAD contains incorrect information, do they need to correct their EAD before they apply for re-parole?**

No, individuals do not have to request a correct (c)(11) EAD in order to apply for re-parole, and they should apply for re-parole as soon as possible. If an Afghan evacuee was issued an initial EAD or I-94 that contained incorrect information, such as an incorrect spelling of their name or date of birth, they can apply for re-parole by submitting Form I-131 with a copy of their government-issued ID that reflects their correct information, such as their Tazkira (translated into English). USCIS has indicated there could be delays associated with applying for re-parole with a different name than the one on their I-94s/EADs. However, USCIS could not provide a

processing timeframe for re-parole under the streamlined process, so it is unclear at this time how applying with corrected information will impact the case processing time.

### **How can an Afghan national correct their EAD if it contains incorrect information?**

If Afghan nationals paroled under PAR or OAW/OAR receive a (c)(11) EAD that contains incorrect information, they can submit their incorrect EAD with a detailed explanation of the card error and their current address along with copies of supporting documents showing the correct information, such as a passport, Tazkira, or driver's license. They would then submit the requested information and evidence to:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Attn: OAW EAD Card Corrections  
P.O. Box 648003  
Lee's Summit, MO 64002

They may submit their original card to correct their information in lieu of filing Form I-765. There is no fee to request the card correction. If the error on the card is an incorrect photograph, USCIS may send the requestor a biometrics appointment to have a photo taken at a USCIS application support center. For more information on EAD corrections:

<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghan-nationals>.

### **What are DHS Requests for Additional Information and who will receive them?**

After the initiation of the re-parole/extension of parole process for certain Afghan parolees, DHS began to send written correspondence, either by mail or e-mail, to certain Afghan nationals entitled "Request for Information from Certain OAW Parolees." These notices request additional information about the recipient's residence histories and contact information. These notices may be sent to Afghan nationals who affirmatively applied for re-parole as well as those who are eligible for parole extensions. Recipients of these notices have 30 days to respond with the requested information. They may respond by completing the paper form attached to the request and mailing it to the DHS return address listed on the notice, or by completing the [online form](#). Individuals should retain a copy of their submission for their records. If submitting the information online, individuals should use the "print page for your records" function to download or print a copy of their responses. If responding by mail, individuals should make a copy of the entire completed form before mailing it to DHS.

### **Should individuals who receive DHS Requests for Additional Information that contain the incorrect A number for the recipient respond to the requests?**

If a Request for Additional Information contains an incorrect A number, USCIS has confirmed that they will reissue the request with the correct A number, and that the corrected notice will provide 30 days from the date of the corrected notice for the recipient to respond.

**If an Afghan evacuee did not receive a Request for Additional Information, should they complete the online form to provide their residence and contact information?**

No. If an individual does not receive this notice, they should not complete the online form to submit their information.

**If an individual does not have an Afghan passport, how should they complete the question on the Request for Additional Information about their “Passport or DS-232 Number”?**

If an individual does not have an Afghan passport or DS-232 number, they should scroll to the bottom of the online form under the “country” menu of the passport section to select “other” and indicate that they do not have access to their passport or DS-232 in the corresponding text field.

**Some individuals who are eligible for re-parole are eligible to apply for an EAD under other categories. Will applying for an EAD under a category other than (c)(11) affect the re-parole process?**

Filing an EAD under a different category, such as (c)(8) for pending asylum applications, (c)(9) for pending adjustment of status applications, or (a)(12) for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), should not affect the streamlined re-parole process. Filing for EADs under categories other than parole may be advisable to avoid a possible lapse in employment authorization, especially if there are processing delays under the streamlined re-parole process.

In addition, the category on the Afghan national’s EAD does not need to be (c)(11) for them to receive Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) benefits.

**What are the benefits of maintaining parole?**

Afghan parolees who file for re-parole before their initial parole period expires remain eligible for ORR benefits. Afghan parolees who file applications for asylum or adjustment of status before their initial parole period expires also remain eligible for ORR benefits. Those with pending or approved TPS are not eligible for ORR benefits unless they file for re-parole and/or permanent immigration benefits before their initial parole period expires. ORR also extends benefits to Afghan nationals who already have asylee or refugee status. For more information on ORR benefit eligibility for Afghan nationals, please refer to this ORR policy letter: [PL 23-06: Continuation of ORR Services for Certain Afghans Who Have Filed for Re-Parole, Asylum, or Adjustment of Status \(hhs.gov\)](#). For information about the federal benefits for which Afghan parolees are eligible, please visit: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/Benefits-for-Afghan-Humanitarian-Parolees.pdf>.

**Will an individual with a pending or approved application for TPS be automatically considered for an extension of parole?**

No, as TPS is not considered an application for a permanent immigration benefit, individuals who have only applied for TPS must affirmatively file Form I-131 to be considered for two-year re-parole and an EAD that is valid for the duration of their parole. Afghan nationals are encouraged to apply for permanent immigration benefits such as asylum or adjustment of status if they are eligible and have not done so already.

**Is there a cut-off date for Afghan parolees to apply for re-parole?**

Yes, Afghan nationals who will not be automatically considered for a parole extension should file for re-parole before their initial parole expires and before July 31, 2024.

**Is Form I-134, Declaration of Financial Support, required for those applying for re-parole?**

No, Form I-134 is not required as part of the re-parole process.

**When filing Form I-131 online or by paper, which box should an applicant check in response to the question, “What type of application are you applying for?”**

A re-parole applicant must select the box indicating that “I am outside of the United States, and I am applying for an Advance Parole Document,” even though the individual is inside the United States.

**What documents are needed to apply for re-parole?**

In order to file a re-parole application either online or by paper, the applicant need submit only a copy of one government-issued photo ID such as an EAD, driver’s license, front and back of their national ID (Tazkira) with an English translation, or Afghan passport with English translation that includes a copy of every visa for all other countries contained in the passport. Practically speaking, submitting an EAD is the simplest way to proceed as it serves as a photo ID and does not require translation.

Note that passport-style photos are not required, although applicants may submit a new passport-style photo with their application if they wish to update their photo on their EAD. A fee waiver request is not required as there is no filing fee associated with this application.

**What if an individual already filed for re-parole before June 8, 2023?**

If individuals or their representatives already applied for re-parole by filing Form I-131 before June 8, 2023, they can e-mail [HumanitarianParole@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:HumanitarianParole@uscis.dhs.gov). They should write “Afghan Re-Parole” and the I-131 receipt number in the subject line. USCIS indicates that they will re-route previously filed re-parole applications into the new streamlined process if individuals send them an email to “self-identify.” Individuals may also choose to send an e-mail requesting withdrawal of the I-131 so that they may re-submit Form I-131 under the streamlined process.

Applicants may choose to go the latter route if they originally applied by paper and would now like to submit their request online.

**If an individual has a pending application for adjustment of status or asylum, should he or she still affirmatively file Form I-131?**

USCIS has stated that it is not necessary to file Form I-131 if an individual has a pending asylum or adjustment of status application. While there will not necessarily be direct negative consequences of filing an I-131 when the applicant has a pending asylum or adjustment of status application, it could slow down the re-parole process for all eligible Afghan nationals if USCIS must process unnecessarily-filed I-131s and go through each applicant's file twice. While concern about USCIS's ability to efficiently process re-parole applications is understandable, it is advisable in most cases to follow the announced instructions for the program.

**How can Afghan parolees who will be considered for parole extensions check the status of their extensions?**

Individuals who have a pending Form I-589 or Form I-485, have not yet received a Form I-797C notice extending their parole, and whose initial period of parole will expire in the next 14 calendar days can request information about their parole extension by following the instructions provided by USCIS on their [Afghan Re-Parole FAQ](#) under the "Case-by-Case Extension of Initial Parole" section.

**The online Form I-131 requests an explanation as to how the applicant qualifies for an advance parole document and what humanitarian circumstances warrant its issuance. Do individuals need to complete these sections under the streamlined application process?**

No, applicants do not need to explain ongoing circumstances that would support a grant of re-parole. Applicants can simply write: "Applicant is an Afghan national who was paroled through PAR/OAR," leave the space blank, or write "N/A."

**When completing the online Form I-131, does an applicant for re-parole need to complete questions 12 through 18?**

No, when completing Form I-131 online, questions 12 through 18 may be left unanswered or write "N/A," where possible, as these questions do not apply for Afghan nationals applying for re-parole.

**When applying online, should applicants check the box "Yes" indicating that they are requesting expedited processing?**

They can, but it is unclear if this will impact the processing timeline for re-parole under the streamlined process. Many advocates are recommending that applicants check "No" to make the application process as simple as possible.

### **If an applicant fails to request an EAD on Form I-131, should they file Form I-765?**

If a re-parole applicant does not indicate that they want an EAD on Form I-131, they must wait until their Form I-131 is approved to file Form I-765. They must submit proof of their re-parole grant, such as their I-131 approval notice or updated I-94 from the CBP website, with their Form I-765, or their application will be delayed or rejected. There is no fee associated with Form I-765 based on Afghan re-parole, therefore a separate Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver, is not required.

### **When individuals file Form I-131 to be considered for re-parole, will the USCIS receipt notice for re-parole automatically extend their employment authorization?**

No, when Afghan nationals apply for re-parole and request an EAD via the affirmative filing process, they are requesting a new period of parole, not an extension of the initial period of parole. The receipt notice that acknowledges receipt of Form I-131 will not provide proof of continued parole or employment authorization.

USCIS explained that after filing Form I-131, a re-parole applicant will first find that their I-94 has been updated on the I-94 website. The updated I-94 showing their period of re-parole will serve as proof of employment authorization for 90 days while USCIS processes their EAD. After 90 days, a re-parole applicant will need a valid EAD to satisfy I-9 requirements. When USCIS approves their Form I-131, they will send the re-parole applicant their EAD.

### **What can Afghan parolees who have applied for re-parole or have had their parole extended provide employers who reject their valid employment authorization documentation?**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) Immigrant and Employee Rights (IER) division published guidance regarding I-9 document requirements Afghan parolees that can be provided to employers, available here: <https://www.justice.gov/crt/page/file/1445236/download>. As previously indicated, upon a grant of parole extension, an updated I-94 serves as proof of employment authorization for I-9 purposes for 90 days; after the 90 days an individual must present the I-797C parole extension notice and their *expired* (c)(11) EAD to satisfy I-9 document requirements for the duration of their parole. These individuals also may choose to file Form I-765 to obtain an unexpired EAD. For those granted re-parole upon the approval of Form I-131, an updated I-94 will serve as employment authorization for 90 days. After 90 days these individuals will require an unexpired EAD.

Both USCIS and DOJ - IER division encourage employees to call the DOJ - IER employee hotline if employers refuse to accept valid employment authorization documentation: 1-800-255-7688. If employers have questions about verifying employment eligibility, they may call the DOJ - IER hotline for employers: 1-800-255-8155.



**If a re-parole applicant's initial parole period expires while their re-parole application is pending, will their parole be extended while USCIS processes the re-parole application?**

No, after an individual's parole expires, they are no longer considered to be in lawful status unless they have already been granted TPS or another immigration status. However, individuals with pending TPS, asylum, and adjustment of status applications are considered lawfully present in the United States and may remain until USCIS adjudicates their application. Again, Afghan nationals are encouraged to apply for both TPS or permanent immigration benefits and re-parole as soon as possible.

**Do derivatives of a principal applicant's pending asylum or adjustment of status applications need to file Form I-131?**

No. Derivatives of principal applicant Afghan nationals who have applied for asylum or adjustment of status will be automatically considered on a case-by-case basis for an extension of parole as would the principal applicant. Derivatives do not need to file Form I-131 provided that the principal applicant meets all the eligibility requirements for an extension of parole and filed their asylum or adjustment of status application before their original parole period expired.

**Can a parent create one myUSCIS account and request re-parole for their whole family in one account?**

No, USCIS requires that each individual who requests re-parole create their own myUSCIS account, even children who are under the age of 18. USCIS explained that each individual family member must create a separate account because the system requires a unique e-mail address for each person who files Form-131 online. A parent or primary caregiver may create an online account for minor children, using an e-mail address specific to the child, to file Form I-131 and request an EAD for the child. A parent may sign Form I-131 on behalf of a minor child.

**Will USCIS require biometrics appointments as part of the re-parole application process for those who must file Form I-131?**

USCIS may be able to use previously captured biometrics provided during OAW and would therefore not send a biometrics appointment notice. The agency indicated further that they would inform re-parole applicants in writing if they needed to attend a biometric services appointment. If a biometrics appointment is required, there will be no biometric services fee. It is important that the applicant attends any scheduled biometrics appointment to avoid denial of their re-parole request.

**Will the re-parole process lead to permanent status?**

No. Parole is only a temporary remedy and does not put recipients on a direct path to permanent status. All Afghan nationals are encouraged to apply for permanent immigration

benefits for which they are eligible, such as asylum or adjustment of status. TPS recipients are likewise encouraged to apply for permanent benefits, as TPS is also only a temporary remedy.

**Where can I find more resources and helpful information about the Afghan re-parole process?**

For more information on Afghan re-parole process, please see these helpful resources:

- [USCCB Afghan Re-Parole Quick Reference Chart](#)
- [USCIS overview of Afghan re-parole](#)
- [USCIS FAQ for Afghan parolees](#)
- [USCIS resources for Afghan nationals](#)
- [USCIS FAQ for Afghan re-parole](#)
- [VECINA course on Afghan re-parole and the application process](#)
- [Instructional video for how to file I-131 online provided by USCIS](#)
- [How to create a myUSCIS account](#)