

Filing a Petition

Legal Permanent Residents are permitted to file an I-130 petition for a spouse or unmarried child before they become a US Citizen. To file a petition, visit www.uscis.gov.

Lost or Stolen Green Card

If your green card has been lost or stolen, visit the US Embassy any Monday at 1:00pm.

Prior to appearing at the Embassy, kindly visit our website <http://georgetown.usembassy.gov/visas/lost-stolen-greencards.html> to complete Form I-90. The following will also be required:

Photograph measuring 2 inches by 2 inches

A police Report (if stolen)

Statement explaining what happened to the green card

Travel itinerary

Child Born to a Legal Permanent Resident

A child born to a legal permanent resident mother on her temporary stay abroad does not require a visa once:

- Admission is within two years of birth; and
- Either accompanying parent is applying for readmission upon first return after the birth of the child.

To apply for the child's travel document kindly submit the following any Monday at 1:00pm:

- A passport with 6 months validity for both the mother and the child
- The mother's green card
- The child's birth certificate and clinic card a completed form I-90
- Three 2 inches by 2 inches photograph of the child

U.S. Embassy, Georgetown, Guyana
Facebook: Consular Section, U.S Embassy Georgetown
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LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT GUIDE



Permanent Resident

A lawful permanent resident (LPR) is someone with a legally obtained Permanent Resident Card, I-551 – commonly known as the “Green Card”.

A Green Card is given as proof that a person is granted permanent residency in the United States. A person with a Green Card has a right to live and take employment in the United States permanently and may eventually become a United States citizen.

Travelling

What documents do I need to travel outside the United States?

In general, you will need to present a passport from your country of citizenship or your refugee travel document to travel to a foreign country. In addition, the foreign country may have additional entry/exit requirements (such as a visa).

What documents do I need to present to re-enter the United States?

If seeking to enter the United States after temporary travel abroad, you will need to present a valid, unexpired “green card” (Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card).

Does travel outside the United States affect my permanent resident status?

Permanent residents are free to travel outside the United States on temporary or brief travel which usually does not affect your permanent resident status. If it is determined, however, that you did not intend to make the United States your permanent home, you will be found to have abandoned your permanent resident status. A general guide used is whether you have been absent from the United States for more than a year. Abandonment may be found to occur in trips of less than a year where it is believed you did not intend to make the United States your permanent residence. While brief trips abroad generally are not problematic, the officer may consider criteria such as whether your intention was to visit abroad only temporarily, whether you maintained U.S. family and community ties, maintained U.S. employment, filed U.S. income taxes as a resident, or otherwise established your intention to return to the United States as your permanent home. Other factors that may be considered include whether you maintained a U.S. mailing address, kept U.S. bank accounts and a valid U.S. driver's license, own property or run a business in the United States, or any other evidence that supports the temporary nature of your absence.

What if my trip abroad will last longer than 1 year?

If you plan on being absent from the United States for longer than a year, it is advisable to first apply for a re-entry permit on Form I-131. Obtaining a re-entry permit prior to leaving the United States allows a permanent or conditional permanent resident to apply for admission into the United States during the permit's validity without the need to obtain a returning resident visa from a U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad. Please note that it does not guarantee entry into the United States upon your return as you must first be determined to be admissible; however, it will assist you in establishing your intention to permanently reside in the United States.

If you remain outside of the United States for more than 2 years, any re-entry permit granted before your departure from the United States will have expired. In this case, it is advisable to consider applying for a returning resident visa (SB-1) at the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. An SB-1 applicant will be required to establish eligibility for an immigrant visa and will need a medical exam. There is an exception to this process for the spouse or child of either a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or civilian employee of the U.S. Government stationed abroad on official orders.

Additionally, absences from the United States of six months or more may disrupt the continuous residency required for naturalization. If your absence is one year or longer and you wish to preserve your continuous residency in the United States for naturalization purposes, you may file an Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization Purposes on Form N-470.