

TRANSPORTATION LETTER

I need to travel to the United States and my Green Card was lost or stolen

A lawful permanent resident (LPR) of the United States is required to present a valid Form I-551, Permanent Resident Card, if seeking readmission to the U.S. after a temporary absence of **less than one year**. A Transportation Letter facilitates boarding by the airline to transport you back to the U.S.

How to apply for a transportation letter

To apply for a transportation letter you must make an appointment to visit our office in Rome and file the request in person. Appointments can be made online at <https://infopass.uscis.gov>. **Before** scheduling your appointment you must contact our office either via email at uscis.rome@uscis.dhs.gov or over the phone at +39 06 4674 2190 (from 8.30 to 12.30). The office is closed on weekends and [American and Italian holidays](#).

It is recommended that you make an appointment with our office at least 1 week before you intend to travel back to the U.S. Please note that the USCIS office processes applications for U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents who have been outside the United States for less than one year and who are intending return travel to the U.S. **within 30 days**.

What should I bring to the appointment?

- Fill in the request for transportation letter – [Form I-193](#)

Please note that although the form indicates there is a fee required, there is NO fee for transportation letters.

- Your valid passport
- Your alien registration number or photocopy of your I-551 Permanent Resident Card (if available)
- Police Report (if your I-551 Permanent Resident Card was stolen)
- Flight ticket / electronic itinerary which shows your last departure from the U.S. and your upcoming return
- Two passport photos

Information for Military Personnel Only:

- Spouses or children of active duty U.S. Military members or U.S. Government civilian employees stationed overseas pursuant to official orders, must present a copy of orders **assigning the military member/employee overseas**. Their names must be included on those orders. If they are not included on those orders, please present the marriage or birth certificate documenting the relationship.
- The PCS return orders, if you are moving back to the U.S. permanently on this trip

Is there a fee and when do I get the transportation letter?

There is no fee for the transportation letter. In most cases transportation letters are issued on the same day.

What if I remained outside of the U.S. for more than a year?

USCIS cannot issue a transportation letter to you if you have been outside the U.S. for more than 364 days without a Reentry Permit – Form I-131 (which permits you to stay outside the U.S. for up to 2 years). You will need to either begin the process again by filing a new I-130 or you may inquire about a [returning resident visa](#) the Department of State Immigrant Visa Unit at the U.S. Consulate General in Naples at IVNaples@state.gov. If you wish to return to the United States temporarily, see the Department of State's <https://italy.usembassy.gov/visa/niv.html> information page or [ESTA](#) for the Visa Free Travel.

BABY TRANSPORTATION LETTER

I am a Legal permanent resident and had a baby while outside the United States. How do I bring my child to the U.S.?

To apply for a transportation letter you must make an appointment to visit our office in Rome and file the request in person. Appointments can be made online at <https://infopass.uscis.gov>. Before scheduling your appointment you must contact our office either via email at uscis.rome@uscis.dhs.gov or over the phone at +39 06 46742190 (from 8.30 to 12.30). The office is closed on weekends and [American and Italian holidays](#).

It is recommended that you make an appointment with our office at least 1 week before you and the baby intend to travel back to the U.S. Please note that Transportation Letters for babies are valid for travel for up to **30 days from the date of issuance**.

What should I bring to the appointment?

- The baby's passport
- The baby's birth certificate
- Your passport
- Your I-551 Permanent Resident Card
- Your unexpired Reentry Permit (if applicable)
- Flight ticket /electronic itinerary which shows your last departure from the U.S., and upcoming return travel to the United States for you and your baby.
- Two passport photos of the baby

Information for Military Personnel Only:

- Spouses or children of active duty U.S. Military members or U.S. Government civilian employees stationed overseas pursuant to official orders, must present a copy of orders **assigning the military member/employee overseas**. Their names must be included on

those orders. If they are not included on those orders, please present the marriage or birth certificate documenting the relationship.

- The PCS return orders, if you are moving back to the U.S. permanently on this trip

Is there a fee and when do I get the transportation letter?

There is no fee for the transportation letter. In most cases transportation letters are issued on the same day.

What if I remained outside of the U.S. for more than a year?

If you have been continuously outside of the U.S. for a period of one year and are **not** in possession of a Reentry Permit – Form I-131, which permits you to stay outside the U.S. for up to 2 years, USCIS **cannot** issue a baby transportation letter.

EXPIRED GREEN CARD:

NOTE: What If My Permanent Resident Card or Conditional Residential Card Has Expired?

According to DHS' Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Transportation Companies are authorized to permit boarding of any bona fide Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) in possession of an expired Permanent Resident Card **with a ten-year expiration date**, if the expiration date on the card is the only reason that the LPR would otherwise not be boarded. Airlines are to permit boarding without any penalty to the LPR.

This policy does **not** apply to Conditional Permanent Resident cardholders whose cards have a two-year expiration date. The Conditional Permanent Resident in possession of an expired Conditional Resident Card can only be boarded if in possession of the original form I-797 Notice of Action indicating the card is extended and provided the extension has not expired. Otherwise the Conditional Permanent Resident needs a Transportation Letter.