**Discretionary Immigration Options for Military Members, Enlistees and Their Families**

**Citizenship for Family Members**

Spouses of members of the U.S. armed forces (service members) may be eligible for expedited or overseas naturalization. Children of service members may also be eligible for overseas naturalization.

For information on the general naturalization requirements and procedures for spouses of U.S. citizens who do not qualify for expedited or overseas naturalization, see the [Citizenship](https://www.uscis.gov/node/41389) section of our website. For general information on acquired or derived citizenship for children of service members, go to our [Citizenship Through Parents](https://www.uscis.gov/us-citizenship/citizenship-through-parents) page.

For information on citizenship for surviving spouses or children of deceased service members who died as a result of injury or disease incurred in or aggravated by military service, see the [Survivor Benefits for Relatives of U.S. Citizen Military Members](https://www.uscis.gov/node/41843) page.

**Expedited Naturalization for Spouses of Military Members**

Spouses of U.S. citizen service members who are (or will be) stationed abroad may be eligible for expedited naturalization in the U.S. under section 319(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).

To apply for naturalization under INA 319(b), you generally must:

* Be age 18 or older;
* Establish your spouse is a U.S. citizen who is, or will be, regularly stationed abroad as a member of the U.S. armed forces for a period of one year or more;
* Be authorized to accompany your spouse abroad by your spouse’s official orders;
* Be present in the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident at the time of your naturalization application interview;
* Be present in the U.S. at the time of naturalization;
* Declare in good faith upon naturalization an intent to reside abroad with your U.S. citizen spouse and to reside in the U.S. immediately upon your spouse’s termination of service abroad;
* Be able to read, write, and speak basic English;
* Have a basic knowledge of U.S. history and government (civics); and
* Have been, and continue to be, a person of good moral character, attached to the principles of the U.S. Constitution and well-disposed to the good order and happiness of the U.S. during all relevant periods under the law.

**Expedited Processing**

Military spouses who are on their active-duty spouse’s PCS (permanent change of station) orders must contact the [Military Help Line](https://www.uscis.gov/node/41427) at 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645) or [militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov) to let the team know they are moving according to military orders and, therefore, are requesting expedited processing. This is a case-by-case review and is not automatically granted to 319(b) spouses. In most situations, all military spouses are routed through the normal processing.

We may also consider expedited processing in other unique cases (for example, if a U.S. service member is deploying and needs to update their family care plan). However, we cannot guarantee that we will grant every expedite request.

If you or your family members have questions about discretionary options, please contact our toll-free Military Help Line at 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645). For more information, see our [Military Help Line](https://www.uscis.gov/military/military-help-line) page. You can also schedule an [appointment online](https://infopass.uscis.gov/) with a USCIS immigration officer.

**Parole In Place**

We may grant parole in place on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit under section 212(d)(5)(A) of the INA. You may be eligible for parole in place in 1-year increments if you are the spouse, widow(er), parent, son or daughter of:

* An active-duty member of the U.S. armed forces;
* An individual in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve; or
* An individual who (whether still living or deceased) previously served on active duty or in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve and was not dishonorably discharged.

If you entered the U.S. lawfully but overstayed your visa (or are otherwise in the U.S. past your period of authorized stay), you are not eligible for parole in place because you are not an applicant for admission. However, you may qualify for deferred action. See the Deferred Action section for more information.

To request parole in place, you must submit the following to the [USCIS office](https://www.uscis.gov/node/34834) with jurisdiction over your place of residence (military families on assignment in an area different from their permanent place of residence may submit their request to the office with jurisdiction over either location):

* Completed [Form I-131, Application for Travel Document](https://www.uscis.gov/node/41158) (without fee). You must handwrite “Military PIP” in **Part 2** instead of checking a box;
* Evidence of the family relationship, such as:
* Marriage certificate
* Documentation of termination of previous marriage
* Son or daughter’s birth certificate
* Military member’s birth certificate with parent’s name
* Proof of enrollment in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS);
* Evidence that your family member is a current or former member of the U.S. armed forces, such as a photocopy of the front and back of the service member’s military identification card or DD Form 214;
* Two identical, color passport style photographs; and
* Evidence of any additional favorable discretionary factors that you would like us to consider.

**Deferred Action**

Deferred action is a form of prosecutorial discretion to defer removal action (deportation) against an individual for a certain period of time. If we grant you deferred action, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) considers you to be lawfully present in the U.S. for the period deferred action is in effect. Deferred action does **not** give you lawful status, nor does it excuse any past or future periods of unlawful presence.

Under existing regulations, if you are granted deferred action, you are eligible to apply for employment authorization for the period of deferred action if you can demonstrate “an economic necessity for employment.” DHS can terminate deferred action at any time, at its discretion.

You may be eligible for deferred action for up to 2 years if you are the spouse, widow(er), parent, son or daughter of:

* An active-duty member of the U.S. armed forces;
* An individual in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve; or
* An individual who (whether still living or deceased) previously served on active duty or in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve and was not dishonorably discharged.

In addition, Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest program enlistees in the Department of Defense Delayed Entry Program (DEP) may be eligible for deferred action. Spouses, parents, sons and daughters of enlistees in DEP may also be eligible for deferred action.

To request deferred action, you must submit the following to the director of the [USCIS office](https://www.uscis.gov/node/34834) with jurisdiction over your place of residence (military families on assignment in an area different from their permanent place of residence may submit their request to the office with jurisdiction over either location):

* A letter stating the basis for your deferred action request;
* A copy of DD Form 4, Enlistment/Reenlistment Document;
* Evidence of any additional factors supporting a favorable exercise of discretion in the form of deferred action;
* Proof of family relationship, if applying based on family relationship to military member, veteran or enlistee, such as:
* Marriage certificate
* Documentation of termination of previous marriage
* Son or daughter’s birth certificate
* Military member’s birth certificate with parent’s name
* Proof of enrollment in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS);
* In the case of surviving family members, proof of residence in the U.S. at the time of the service member’s death;
* Proof of identity and nationality;
* If applicable, any document you used to lawfully enter the U.S.;
* [Form G-325A](http://www.uscis.gov/g-325a), Biographic Information; and
* Two identical, color, passport-style photographs.