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Welcome to the Form I-730 Refugee/Asylee Follow-to-Join Processing Engagement

We will begin at 2 p.m. Eastern.

Please enjoy our pre-event slides.

Are your computer speakers on? If you don't have speakers, you will need headphones to hear the presentation. There is no dial-in number.

What is the Form I-730?



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The Form I-730 is a petition that principal refugees and asylees can submit to USCIS for eligible family members to obtain derivative status in the United States. There is no fee to file the form.



Principal Refugee or Asylee

- a principal refugee admitted to the United States within the past 2 years,
- a principal asylee granted asylum within the past 2 years, or
- a lawful permanent resident who was admitted to the United States as a principal refugee or granted asylum as a principal asylee within the past 2 years.



Use Form I-730

To request that your qualifying spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age receive derivative status.



Pre-event slide. We will begin our presentation at 2 p.m. Eastern time.

Did You Know...



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WITHIN USCIS FORM I-730 IS MANAGED BY THREE DIRECTORATES?

Service Center Operations Directorate (SCOPS)	Refugee, Asylum and International Operations Directorate (RAIO)	Field Operations Directorate (FOD)
<p>Receives all Form I-730 Following-to-Join Petitions.</p> <p>Completes initial domestic processing of Form I-730 Following-to-Join <u>Asylee</u> (FTJ-A) petitions.</p>	<p>Completes initial domestic processing of Form I-730 Following-to-Join <u>Refugee</u> (FTJ-R) petitions.</p> <p>Interviews beneficiaries and adjudicates Form I-730 petitions in locations abroad where there is a USCIS International Office.</p>	<p>Interviews domestic beneficiaries (and occasionally petitioners) and adjudicates Form I-730 petitions if the beneficiary is located within the U.S.</p> <p>Adjudicates immigration benefits for Form I-730 petitioners at USCIS Field Offices.</p>

Pre-event slide. We will begin our presentation at 2 p.m. Eastern time.

How Will I Be Able to Check Form I-730 Case Processing Time?



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Step 1: Visit the ‘Check Case Processing Times’ webpage at <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times>.

Step 2: In the three drop-down menus, select:

- **Form:** Form I-730 Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition
- **Form Category:** Petition for accompanying family members of an asylee
- **Field Office or Service Center:** Select the office where your case is being adjudicated.

Step 3: Click on ‘Get processing time.’

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#) Español Multilingu.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Topics Forms Newsroom Citizenship Green Card Laws

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Seal, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[Para tener acceso a este sitio en español, presione aquí](#)

Check Case Processing Times

Select your form, form category, and the office that is processing your case
Refer to your receipt notice to find your form, category, and office. For more information about case processing times and reading your receipt notice, visit the [More Information About Case Processing Times](#) page.

Form *
I-730 | Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition

Form Category *
Petition for accompanying family members of an asylee

Field Office or Service Center *
Texas Service Center

Get processing time

How Can I Inquire About My Case Being Processed in the U.S.?



Outside of normal processing times

- Call the Contact Center at 800-375-5283 (TTY 800-767-1833), Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Eastern.
- Submit an e-request - <https://egov.uscis.gov/e-request/Intro.do>.

Form I-730 petitions processed at the Texas Service Center or at a USCIS domestic field office

- Call the Contact Center.

Form I-730 petitions processed at the Asylum Vetting Center

- Call the Contact Center.
- Mail your inquiry to: Form I-730 Processing Unit, Asylum Vetting Center, P.O. Box 57100, Atlanta, GA 30308-0506
- Send your inquiry by shipping carrier (FedEx, UPS, etc.) to: Form I-730 Processing Unit, Asylum Vetting Center, 401 W Peachtree St NW, Ste 1000, Atlanta, GA 30308
- Please note that the Asylum Vetting Center is not a public-facing office and does not accept requests or inquiries made in person.

How Can I Inquire About My Case Being Processed Outside the U.S.?



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Outside of normal processing times

- Submit an e-request - <https://egov.uscis.gov/e-request/Intro.do>



???

Form I-730 petitions processed at a USCIS international field office

- Find contact information at uscis.gov/about-us/find-a-uscis-office/international-immigration-offices

Have You Moved?



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- **IMPORTANT:** Please notify USCIS if the contact information for you or your Form I-730 beneficiary changes.
- To update your or your beneficiary's address in the United States, submit Form AR-11 (uscis.gov/ar-11) online.

How Do I Look Up My Case Location to Update My Address?



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For contact information for USCIS domestic field offices, visit:

uscis.gov/about-us/find-a-uscis-office/field-offices

For beneficiaries outside the United States who will be interviewed and processed by a USCIS international field office, visit:

uscis.gov/about-us/find-a-uscis-office/international-immigration-offices

For beneficiaries outside the United States who will be interviewed and processed by the Department of State, visit:

- National Visa Center page - <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/immigrate/national-visa-center.html>
- Department of State U.S. Embassy Locator page - usembassy.gov

In Case You Missed It...



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We published our Form I-730 stakeholder engagement materials from last July in the Electronic Reading Room.

- There you can read our responses to YOUR questions.
- Here are some questions you asked us:
 - Q: Is USCIS prioritizing cases in any way and is there any way to expedite them?
 - Q: Does filing Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status, when the Form I-730 application is pending affect the processing of the Form I-730 application?
 - Q: Practitioners are continuing to receive Requests for Evidence for refugee beneficiaries that do not state the legal basis for the requested evidence. What is USCIS doing about this?
- Visit the Electronic Reading Room at uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room.



Don't Miss Our Engagements!



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For a list of national and local engagements, visit [**uscis.gov/outreach**](https://uscis.gov/outreach).

- Stay tuned for more announcements!

Reminder: We post some of our engagement materials on the Electronic Reading Room webpage at uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room.





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Form I-730 Refugee/Asylee Follow-to-Join



National Engagement

March 29, 2023

Disclaimer



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Materials presented today are for informational purposes only and are not legal advice. The information disseminated today and statements made by USCIS personnel are intended solely for the purpose of providing public outreach to the agency's stakeholders about issues of mutual interest. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit.

Agenda



Operational Updates

- Processing changes and updates



Progress Updates

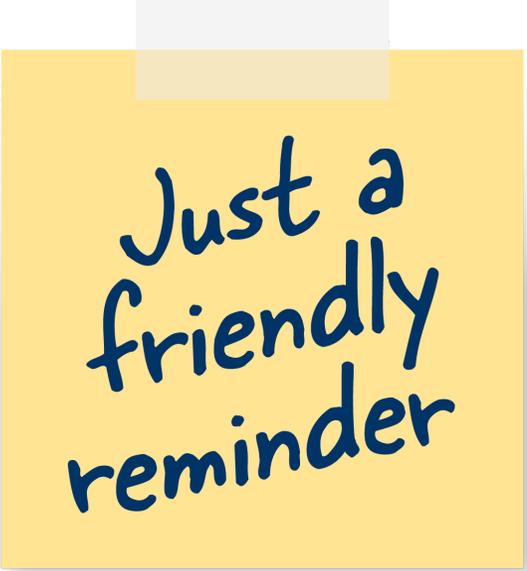
- Updated web guidance
- Processing times
- Specific Population: Beneficiaries from Afghanistan
- Case Management System
- Contact Center
- Requests for Evidence templates
- Backlog reduction efforts

Reminders



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1. Questions from media – media@uscis.dhs.gov.
2. Questions from congressional offices - usciscongressionalinquiries@uscis.dhs.gov.
3. Today's engagement will not be recorded.
4. You can submit written questions through the Q&A box on the right side of your screen.
5. Send questions outside the scope of today's engagement to public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov

A yellow sticky note graphic with a white tab at the top, containing the text "Just a friendly reminder" in a blue, handwritten-style font.

Just a
friendly
reminder

Form I-730 Processing Update



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Before Jan. 1, 2023

Form I-730 petitions were sent to either the Nebraska Service Center and Texas Service Center.

As of Jan. 1, 2023

All Form I-730 petitions are being sent to:

Texas Service Center

6046 North Belt Line Road, Suite 730
Irving, TX 75038-0019

All other aspects of processing have not changed.

Refugee-based Form I-730 Petitions



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Refugee-based petitions:

- All petitions including those with overseas and domestic beneficiaries are sent immediately to RAIO after data entry.

FORM I-730 FOLLOWING-TO-JOIN



Asylum-based Form I-730 Petitions

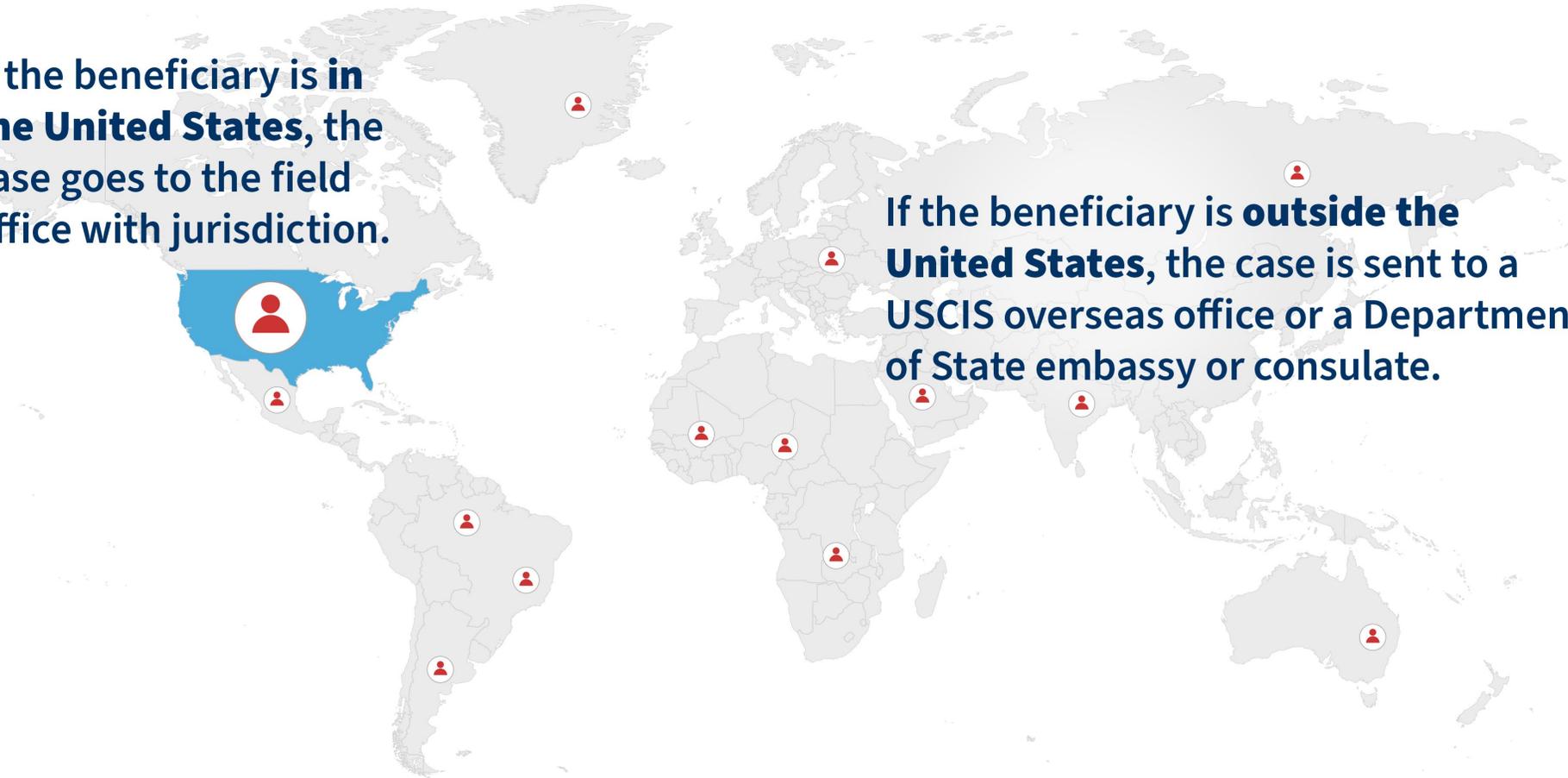


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If the beneficiary is **in the United States**, the case goes to the field office with jurisdiction.



If the beneficiary is **outside the United States**, the case is sent to a USCIS overseas office or a Department of State embassy or consulate.



Stakeholder Question: Processing Times



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Question:

- We noticed that the median processing time for Form I-730 in FY 2022 was 28.6 months and in FY 2023, it is 14 months. Will you please describe what efforts have contributed to this change?



Answer:

- COVID-19 had previously affected Form I-730 processing.
- Additional staff have been assigned to adjudicate Form I-730 cases.
- As a result, processing time has come down.

Stakeholder Question: Historical Processing Times



Historical National Median Processing Time (in Months) for All JSCIS Offices for Select Forms By Fiscal Year
Fiscal Year 2018 to 2023 (up to January 31, 2023)

Median Processing Times (in Months)
The number of months shown is the median. It represents the time it took to complete half of the cases in a given time period.

Form	Form Description	Classification or Basis for Filing	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023 ^a
I-90	Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card	Initial issuance, replacement or renewal	8.0	7.8	8.3	5.2	1.2	10.9
I-102	Application for Replacement/Initial Nonimmigrant Arrival/Departure Record	Initial issuance or replacement of a Form I-94	3.9	3.3	3.9	4.0	7.8	5.1
I-129	Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker	Nonimmigrant Petition (Premium filed)	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
I-129	Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker	Nonimmigrant Petition (non Premium filed)	3.8	4.7	2.3	1.8	2.3	3.8
I-129F	Petition for Alien Fiancé(e)	All Classifications	6.5	5.2	4.6	8.0	12.1	14.6
I-130	Petition for Alien Relative	Immediate Relative	7.6	8.6	8.3	10.2	10.3	12.7
I-131	Application for Travel Document	Advance Parole Document	3.6	4.5	4.6	7.7	7.3	5.4
I-131	Application for Travel Document	Parole in Place	3.3	3.3	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.2
I-131	Application for Travel Document	Travel Document	2.9	2.8	4.0	7.2	10.6	15.0
I-140	Immigrant Petition for Alien Workers	Immigrant Petition (Premium filed)	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
I-140	Immigrant Petition for Alien Workers	Immigrant Petition (non Premium filed)	8.9	5.8	4.9	8.2	9.3	4.1
I-260	Petition for Amerasian	Immigrant Petition (All)	12.2	16.9	11.1	5.5	9.1	9.0



• Please share whether the data from the Historic Processing Times webpage is for domestic processing or whether it includes the entire adjudication timeline of a Form I-730?



- Reflects processing times at the USCIS Service Centers that handle Form I-730 cases.
- The Historical Processing Times page uses a median 50th percentile statistic, while the main case processing times page uses the 80th percentile statistics.
- Averages service center data over the course of a fiscal year; not location-specific processing times covering 6 months of data.

Cycle Time Goals



- Form I-730 target times are measured using ‘cycle times.’
- A cycle time measures how many months’ worth of pending cases for a particular form are waiting on a decision.
- New cycle times goals established in March 2022 are internal metrics that guide USCIS’ backlog reduction efforts.

NEW CYCLE TIME GOALS		
2 WEEKS	6 MONTHS	
I-129 Premium	N-400	I-526
I-140 Premium	N-600	I-600
2 MONTHS	N-600K	I-600A
I-129 Non-Premium	I-485	I-730
3 MONTHS	I-140 Non-Premium	I-800
I-765	I-130 Immediate Relative	I-800A
I-131 Advance Parole	I-129F Fiancé(e)	I-90
I-539	I-290B	I-821D Renewals
I-824	I-360	
	I-102	

I-854	I-703	
I-231	I-300	

I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition

ALERT: As [announced](#) in January 2023, all Form I-730 petitions should be filed at the Texas Service Center. We will reject any Form I-730 petition mailed to the Nebraska Service Center or the other USCIS service centers.

As we move toward an increasingly electronic environment, we now scan and upload many documents into electronic database systems. To help us process your petition as efficiently as possible, read our [Recommendations for Paper Filings to Avoid Scanning Delays](#).

REMINDER: Please submit a passport-style photograph of each family member you are petitioning for. If you do not provide the required photo, we may issue a Request for Evidence, and it could take longer to process your petition.

If you are a principal refugee admitted to the United States within the past 2 years or a principal asylee who was granted asylum within the past 2 years, you (the petitioner) may use this form to request that your spouse and unmarried children under 21 years of age (the beneficiaries) join you in the United States. In certain circumstances, unmarried children over 21 years old may be eligible for following-to-join immigration benefits. For more information, see our [Child Status Protection Act](#) page. In some cases, we may grant a waiver of the 2-year filing deadline for humanitarian reasons. See the [Instructions for Form I-730 \(PDF, 91.59 KB\)](#) for more information.

Form I-730 Processing

What This Form Can Help You Do

[Derivative Refugee/Asylee Status for Your Spouse](#)

[Derivative Refugee/Asylum Status for Your Children](#)

Forms and Document Downloads

[Form I-730 \(PDF, 219.42 KB\)](#)

[Instructions for Form I-730 \(PDF, 91.59 KB\)](#)

Form Details

[Close All](#) [Open All](#)

Edition Date



Updated Guidance on the Form I-730 webpage:

- How to identify where your Form I-730 is being processed.
- How to request expedited processing.
- How to make inquiries about petitions outside of normal processing times.
- How to make changes or updates to pending petitions.

Expanded Information on Processing Times



- Will include information for each step of Form I-730 processing within USCIS. Steps include:
 - Initial domestic processing and interview
 - Additional processing times for USCIS directorates (SCOPS, FOD, RAIO)
- Expanded times will not include information from the Department of State (DOS).
- Development work is underway to provide this additional reporting.
 - Anticipated release in late summer 2023.



Specific Population: Beneficiaries from Afghanistan



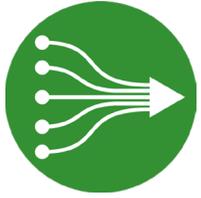
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- USCIS is prioritizing Form I-730 petitions for Afghan nationals.
 - As of March 1, 2023, there are 545 Afghan Form I-730 petitions pending with USCIS.
- USCIS is working closely with DOS to identify how to process Form I-730 petitions in locations outside the United States where there is not a U.S. government presence.
 - Form I-730 petitioners and beneficiaries must always provide an updated address using the instructions at uscis.gov/i-730 for the beneficiary's location so either USCIS or DOS can process the beneficiary in a third country.
- Please check the USCIS and DOS websites for updates on any new information that might be available for Form I-730 processing for Afghan nationals.
 - uscis.gov/allieswelcome
 - state.gov/afghanistan-family-reunification

Case Management System



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- Will use a single system to consolidate processing and case management of newly filed Form I-730 petitions.
 - Will streamline processing, simplify internal actions for staff, and reduce burdens with transferring files across USCIS components and external partners.

Customer Service



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- Based on public feedback, USCIS is updating guidance for Contact Center staff to clearly respond to Form I-730 questions, including questions on:
 - Processing steps
 - Specific actions by petitioners for expedite requests
 - Other status inquiries
- Send your feedback on how we can improve the information we provide through our Contact Center to public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.

New Requests for Evidence Templates



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- Based on public feedback, USCIS has updated templates used for Form I-730 Requests for Evidence.
 - Revised templates will provide greater clarity and details regarding specific legal and evidentiary bases for requests.



Backlog Reduction Efforts



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- Two teams deployed to the Asylum Vetting Center (ZGA) to conduct supervisory review of Form I-730 petitions.
- Working to facilitate remote review and processing of Form I-730 following-to-join refugee petitions pending at ZGA.
- Efforts to reduce the Form I-730 workload backlog will continue this year.



Resources



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Form I-730 webpage (New Content!)

uscis.gov/i-730

How to Request Reconsideration for Informal or Camp Marriages

uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/how-to-request-reconsideration-for-informal-or-camp-marriages

Information for Afghan Nationals

uscis.gov/allieswelcome

Family Reunification for Afghans

state.gov/afghanistan-family-reunification

Change of Address

<https://egov.uscis.gov/coa/displayCOAForm.do>

uscis.gov/ar-11

Processing Times

<https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/historic-pt>

<https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/reducing-processing-backlogs>



What's on Your Mind?



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- Please email any topics of interest for our next engagement to public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.
- Include in the subject line: Next USCIS Form I-730 Engagement Topics



Concluding Remarks



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- For additional questions, please email public.engagement@uscis.dhs.gov.
- USCIS is committed to providing accurate and timely information to the public.
- For more information on our national engagements, visit uscis.gov/outreach.
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