



Marriage-Based Green Card

FOR SPOUSES OF U.S. CITIZENS LIVING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

This checklist is intended as a general guide only. Document requirements vary by case and this list may not reflect all documents required for your specific situation.

Identity & Personal Documents

- Two passport-style photographs for both the petitioner and the foreign spouse (per embassy requirements)
- Valid passport for the foreign spouse
- Birth Certificate for both spouses (or acceptable alternative if unavailable)

Marriage & Relationship Documents

- Government-issued Marriage Certificate
- Divorce decrees or death certificates from any prior marriages (both spouses)
- Evidence of legal name changes (if applicable)

Proof of U.S. Citizenship — Choose One

- Valid U.S. Passport
- U.S. Birth Certificate
- Consular Report of Birth Abroad
- Naturalization Certificate
- Certificate of Citizenship

Proof of a Bona Fide Marriage

- Joint bank account statements
- Lease or mortgage documents listing both spouses
- Joint utility bills or insurance policies
- Photos together over time
- Communication records (emails, messages, call logs)
- Affidavits from friends or family who can speak to your relationship

Have questions about your case?
The Law Office of Ashley Weston offers a free, no-obligation 30-minute initial consultation.

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CONTINUED — FOR SPOUSES OF U.S. CITIZENS LAWFULLY RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES

This checklist is intended as a general guide only. Document requirements vary by case and this list may not reflect all documents required for your specific situation.

Required USCIS Forms

- Form I-130 — Petition for Alien Relative
- Form I-130A — Supplemental Information for Spouse Beneficiary
- Form I-864 — Affidavit of Support

Filed Online Through the National Visa Center (NVC):

- DS-260 — Immigrant Visa Electronic Application

Financial Documents

- Most recent federal tax returns
- Recent pay stubs
- W-2s or 1099s
- Bank statements

Civil & Immigration Documents

- Police clearance certificates from every country the foreign spouse has lived in since age 16
- Any prior U.S. immigration documents
- Documentation of past J-1 or J-2 nonimmigrant status (if applicable)

Important Reminders

- Any documents not in English must include a certified English translation
- Keep all original documents available — USCIS may request them at any time
- Always verify current fees, deadlines, and requirements with USCIS and your U.S. embassy before filing

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