



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

Commission on Immigration



Welcome the stranger.  
Protect the refugee.

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Common Issues Raised in Afghan Asylum Pro Se+ Project

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## Working with Clients

### Making Initial Contact with the Client

- **What are the best strategies for making initial contact with a client?**
  - We would encourage you to use all avenues available to you to set an initial meeting with the client.
  - If the client is not responding to email, you should attempt to reach them through a text message or a direct call if possible. We have also had success reaching individuals using the application “[WhatsApp](#)” on cellular devices.
    - Multiple Pro Bono Attorneys have had success using a translation application for basic information to facilitate the scheduling of meetings without having to rely on an interpreter.
  - Once the initial meeting has taken place, it is best practice to schedule the next meeting with the client before ending the call, particularly if you are using an interpreter on the call, to avoid future scheduling delays.
    - We recommend you ask the client what mode of communication they prefer before ending the first meeting.

### Cultural Humility

- **I have never represented an Afghan client before. What should I keep in mind?**
  - We would encourage you to watch the webinar on Cultural Humility and Working with Afghan Clients, [accessible here](#).

## Preparing the Application for Asylum

### Completing the Form I-589

- **Not all of my client’s information or details about their case will fit on the I-589 Form. What should I do?**
  - Use the supplemental pages on Form I-589 if you need more space to provide additional information or explanation.
- **My client was not or will not be able to file their Application for Asylum within one year of their entry to the U.S. (one year filing deadline). Are they disqualified from asylum now?**
  - No. The regulations provide that an asylum applicant may qualify for an exception to the “one year filing deadline” based on “extraordinary circumstances” where she “maintained Temporary Protected Status, lawful immigrant or nonimmigrant status, or was given parole, until a reasonable period before the filing of the asylum application.” 8 CFR 208.4(a)(5)(iv). USCIS has also clarified that “[g]enerally, maintaining parole until a reasonable period before the filing of the asylum application will be considered an extraordinary circumstance under the regulations.” See Information for Afghans > Asylum, available at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghans> (last accessed March 23, 2022).
  - Page 8, Part C, Question 5 on form I-589 specifically asks whether the applicant is filing their asylum application more than 1 year after their last arrival in the United States. We suggest the following language in response to this question:

- Although I am filing this application more than 1 year after my last arrival in the United States, I am currently in parole status, valid until DATE. My parole status should be accepted as an extraordinary circumstance, tolling the one year filing deadline in my case.
- **Is there anything specific I should write on the application or envelope so USCIS knows that the application should be expedited?**
  - USCIS has advised that Afghan parolees applying for asylum should write “OAW-Parolee” on the outside of the envelope that they send their application in. Writing this information on the outside of the envelope will help USCIS fast-track the application.
  - We also recommend writing “Afghan Parolee – OAW” on the cover letter.
- **Can I file my client’s I589 form online?**
  - You can now file an affirmative asylum application online! USCIS began receiving Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal, through its myUSCIS portal in late 2021 as a part of a “soft launch,” and plans to make a public announcement soon on this new filing option.
  - ABA/HIAS has created an online filing toolkit to assist with those interested in filing their client’s I-589 online, available [here](#).
  - *Please keep in mind that is a brand-new process. ABA/HIAS will continue to update with details as they become available.*

## Preparing the Sworn Affidavit in Support of Asylum

- **What considerations should I keep in mind when working with my client on drafting their Sworn Affidavit in Support of Asylum?**
  - HIAS has prepared a comprehensive training with numerous recommendations and best practices on this topic. We would encourage you to watch the HIAS webinar on Drafting an Effective Affidavit, [accessible here](#).
- **What techniques should I keep in mind when trying to elicit detail from my client when drafting their Affidavit in Support of Asylum?**
  - Be sure to explain to your client why you are asking the questions you are asking. This may make them feel more comfortable in divulging details that may be traumatic.
  - Ask specific, targeted questions when discussing the details surrounding an event. For example, if your client tells you they were threatened, ask whether the threat was in person, by telephone or in writing. Open questions may lead to vague responses.
  - If a client is struggling to remember details surrounding dates or times a particular event took place, ask questions about the context of the scenario. For example, “What was the weather like outside?” or “Do you remember if it was light or dark outside?”. Please keep in mind, it is important that you do not include details that your client may struggle to remember at a later date so as not to impeach your client’s credibility. If you’re client is struggling to remember whether something they experienced took place in June or July of a particular year, for example, it may be best to rely on the season instead (in this case, summer).
  - Lastly, it is important to remember that trauma affects every individual differently and it is not uncommon for clients to have a difficult time remembering exactly what happened to

them and when it happened. Exercising patience with your client will likely lead to a better rapport and may make it easier for your client to discuss their experience.

- **What are best practices when attempting to elicit statements or corroborating evidence for my client's case from individuals still located in Afghanistan**
  - This will vary from case to case, however, it is imperative to keep in mind the safety of the individuals still located in Afghanistan when attempting to gather evidence for your client's asylum case.
  - Consider whether retrieving a notarized statement from the individual is possible given their current location and safety considerations. If this is not possible you may consider alternative options such as screenshots of important documents or statements sent electronically if the individual has the capacity to do so. As this topic is likely to depend on the specific facts of each case, please discuss with your HIAS/ABA mentors during office hours to brainstorm safe and effective ways of retrieving evidence from individuals located abroad.

### Crafting a Legal Theory

- **Which protected ground should I choose if my client is eligible on several bases?**
  - When preparing your client's asylum case, it is best practice to include all potential bases / legal theories for asylum eligibility that apply to the client (*i.e.*, arguing as many protected grounds as applicable). This helps to ensure that if the asylum officer determines that the applicant is ineligible for asylum on one particular basis, the applicant can still establish eligibility through another basis. For example, if your client is an Afghan woman from the Hazara ethnic minority, is a practicing Shia Muslim, and worked outside the home, you might argue that she qualifies for asylum based on her well-founded fear of future persecution on account of: (1) her religion (Shia); (2) her race, as an ethnic Hazara; (3) her feminist political opinion; and (4) her membership in the particular social groups of (A) Afghan women; (B) Shia women; (C) members of the Hazara ethnic group, or Hazara women; and (D) Afghan women who refuse to conform to the Taliban's gender-specific laws.
  - To avoid USCIS issuing a Notice of Intent to Deny (like the one liked [here](#)), we strongly recommend setting forth as many protected grounds as apply to your client's case, and if your client has not suffered persecution in the past, consider how the "PACI" factors or a "pattern or practice" claim may apply to their case (these are described in more detail below). If you have any questions on crafting a comprehensive legal theory for your client's asylum case, and how to build a strong application based on diverse legal theories, we invite you to join us to discuss these matters in our weekly office hours.
- **How should I craft my client's legal theory if they never suffered persecution in the past?**
  - In cases where your client has not yet suffered past persecution, and must establish that they hold a well-founded fear of future persecution, keep in mind that the asylum office uses the four-part test outlined in Matter of Mogharrabi, 19 I&N Dec. 439 (BIA 1987), also known as the "PACI" factors, to analyze whether a future fear of persecution is objectively reasonable:
    - 1) Possession (or imputed possession of a protected characteristic)

- 2) Awareness (the persecutor is aware or could become aware the applicant possesses the characteristic)
- 3) Capability (the persecutor has the capability of punishing the applicant)
- 4) Inclination (the persecutor has the inclination to punish the applicant)
- Alternatively, an asylum applicant can show that their country's government engages in a "pattern or practice" of persecution of people who hold those particular characteristics. To sustain a claim based on a "pattern or practice" of persecution, the persecution must be systemic, pervasive, or organized. We recommend reviewing the [USCIS Officer Training Module on "Well Founded Fear"](#) for more guidance on this issue.

### Country Conditions Information

- **How should I prepare the country conditions evidence to file with my client's I-589?**
  - Generally, it is recommended that relevant portions of country conditions documents submitted with your client's I589 be underlined for easy review by the asylum officer handling your client's case.
- **Where can I find more support and resources for country conditions in Afghanistan?**
  - [HIAS Afghanistan Country Conditions Research](#)
  - [HIAS Country Conditions Toolkit](#)
  - [SIGAR Report - Afghanistan Police \(June 2022\) | Afghan Report \(afghan-report.com\)](#)

### Incorrect Information

- **My client's Employment Authorization Document (EAD), I-94 (Entry Record), or other document has their name misspelled, or has an incorrect date of birth. What should I do?**
  - Even though it may not be the client's fault that their name was misspelled on their EAD, I-94, or other document, it is still best practice to include the misspelled name in response to the "Other Names Used" question on the Form I-589.
  - For errors on EADs, USCIS has provided details about how an Afghan Parolee can correct such errors on the "Information for Afghan Nationals" page, here: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/information-for-afghan-nationals> - Click the second drop down, "Afghan National Parolees – Information about Employment Authorization" for details on how to correct these errors on an EAD.
- **My client does not know the exact dates of birth for their family members. Will this be a problem?**
  - Your client may not know the dates of birth for family members (many rural parts of Afghanistan do not issue traditional birth certificates). If it is unknown, write in the year of birth (or as much information is known) and provide an explanation on Supplement B.
- **My client's I-94 is incorrect with respect to their date of entry, or passport information. Will this be a problem?**
  - No. You should list their date of entry to the best of their recollection, and note any discrepancy between the I-94 and their recollection in the addendum.

## Unavailability of Documents

- **My client is unable to produce certain, official documents such as a marriage certificate. What should I do?**
  - This is a common issue amongst individuals who have been displaced from their home country and have no way of obtaining certain, official documents.
  - To remedy this issue, we recommend submitting a statement explaining the unavailability of the documents. A template explanation of the unavailability of documents can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
  - We also recommend including additional secondary evidence, such as affidavits from close family members or friends or photographs from the event you are trying to memorialize along with an identification document from the individuals submitting an affidavit.

## Terrorism Related Inadmissibility Grounds (TRIG) and Persecutor Bar Concerns

- **My client served in the Afghan Military, or worked with the U.S. Military. Will this be an issue?**
  - If your client served in the U.S. or Afghan military, please flag when you send us the I589 for review. Whether this may be an issue will depend on the dates of their military/police service, and their actions while serving.
  - There are sometimes concerns that an asylum applicant who has worked in the military might be barred from applying for asylum due to the persecutor bar. An applicant would be ineligible for asylum under the persecutor bar if they “ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.” See more here: [USCIS RAO DIRECTORATE – OFFICER TRAINING MODULE – ANALYZING THE PERSECUTION BAR .pdf](#)
  - Afghans who served with the Afghan military during the prior Taliban rule (1996 to 2001) may be barred from asylum under the persecutor bar.
  - Even Afghans who served in the military post-2001 may encounter persecutor bar issues. Regular activities of a soldier, including legitimate acts of war or law enforcement, are not generally considered persecution. However, targeting civilians or engaging in torture would be a reason why a former soldier could be subject to a persecutor bar. Even if someone did not directly commit those acts, “ordering, inciting, assisting, or otherwise participating” in those acts may be sufficient to bar someone from asylum.
  - Anecdotally, we are hearing that former members of the “Zero Units” in the Afghan army, who worked closely with the CIA, may be most at risk for issues with the persecutor bar, as there is reason to believe that many members of “zero units” may have engaged in illegitimate acts of war or law enforcement. See more on Afghan Zero Units here: <https://theintercept.com/2022/11/20/taliban-afghanistan-zero-unit-migrants/> If your client was a former “Zero Unit” member, we strongly recommend reviewing the specific interview preparation materials so that your client is ready to address any questions relating to this work, and any allegations that they are subject to the persecutor bar at their asylum interview.
- **Are there any general exemptions to the TRIG bars that could apply to my client?**

- Yes. On June 14, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State announced certain exemptions to protect Afghan allies by alleviating certain obstacles to immigration benefits such as asylum. We strongly recommend that all attorneys representing Afghan clients read through the full announcement, [here](#), to see applies to your client's case.
- **Is there anything else I can do to try to identify additional issues that may arise during the asylum interview?**
  - Be sure to ask your client about their social media presence and any communications the client had in or outside of Afghanistan on social media or through phone calls, text messages and emails that may be construed as support of the Taliban and any extremist, violent or terrorist organizations.
  - For more information and additional questions that your client may be asked by the Asylum Office, including TRIG specific questions, please see our [interview preparation resources](#).

## Firm Resettlement Issues

- **My client was living in another country prior to coming to the US. Would this be an issue?**
  - Living in another country prior to coming to the U.S. might complicate a client's eligibility for asylum under the firm resettlement bar. For the firm resettlement bar to apply, USCIS will look at:
    - (i) entry into a third country prior to arriving in the United States (after events have occurred that would make the applicant an asylee);
    - (ii) offer or receipt of
    - (iii) permanent status or citizenship in third country.
  - An offer and receipt of permanent residence could be both direct and indirect (asylum office may find that an applicant firmly resettled in a third country based on length of stay and employment, for example). For more information, review the [Asylum Office Training materials on Firm Resettlement](#).

## Post-Filing Issues

- **I filed my client's asylum application several weeks ago. Why have they not received a receipt notice?**
  - There have been SIGNIFICANT delays in receiving receipt notices for paper filings nationwide. USCIS is aware of this issue and made a public announcement to this effect in July 2022. The agency is currently working to resolve it.
- **What can I do if my client has not received a receipt notice after 12 weeks?**
  - USCIS has issued specific guidance asking that attorneys/clients *DO NOT* resubmit applications as this could cause confusion and further delays in processing your client's application.
  - USCIS is aware of delays in receipt notices and is currently working to alleviate the problem. Current average wait times to process asylum applications and issue receipt notices is up to 12 weeks. It is critical that OAW applicants designate that on the outside of their envelopes in order to assist in alleviating delays in receipt notice issuance.



- Even if an Afghan applicant surpasses the stated USCIS deadline for receiving a receipt or interview notice, this does not mean the applicant will be placed in the backlog of asylum applications. Afghan applicants for asylum will continue to be prioritized for fast tracking.
  - **If your client's receipt notice has not been received 12 weeks post-filing**, you may be able to file an [Ombudsman request](#) to assist with receipt issuance. Please be sure to attend HIAS/ABA office hours for more guidance on this process.
- **How can I check the status of my client's case once it has been filed?**
    - Using the Receipt Number on Receipt Notice, you should be able to check the status of a pending asylum case on the USCIS website [here](#).
    - For a case that has already been interviewed and is pending a decision, the best way to inquire as to the status of a case is to email the Asylum Office with jurisdiction over your client's application.
- **Can I submit video evidence to the asylum office?**
    - Generally, USCIS cannot process video/audio evidence. What we have found to be a successful alternative in the past is to provide screenshots from a video file along with transcripts of any audio evidence you may wish to submit. Be sure, however, to advise your client to bring the original recording with them to their interview should the asylum officer wish to review the video/audio. It should be saved in a format that is accessible by computer, such as a thumb drive or compact disc.

## Preparing for the Asylum Interview

- **How long will it take for my client to be scheduled for an interview? How long will it take for them to receive a decision on their case?**
  - USCIS is expediting affirmative asylum applications filed by certain Afghan applicants. Under the [Extending Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act](#), USCIS is prioritizing asylum applications filed by certain Afghan citizens and nationals as defined in Section 2502(a) of the Act (see section Operation Allies Welcome – Expeditious Processing for Asylum Applications below for further information). Under Section 2502(c) of the Act, *USCIS will conduct the initial interview for an asylum application within 45 days of filing and, if there are no exceptional circumstances, complete adjudication within 150 days of filing.*
- **What questions should I ask to prepare my client for their interview?**
  - HIAS and the ABA have several materials accessible [here](#) to assist you in preparing your client for their asylum interview, many of which are Afghan specific. Please review the materials provided and bring additional questions to our weekly office hours sessions.
- **Should my client bring an Interpreter? Who should the Interpreter be?**
  - USCIS recently advised that asylum applicants *may* bring an interpreter with them to the interview, in light of the fact that they've had difficulty obtaining appropriate interpretation services. The interpreter does not need to be a professional interpreter but should be fluent in English and the applicant's native language. Your interpreter must be 18 years or older, and cannot be a witness, your legal representative, or a representative or employee of the

government of your country of nationality (or, if you are stateless, your country of last habitual residence).

- **The interpreter should not be a family member of the applicant or a representative of the government they are fleeing. Our understanding is that USCIS is also not allowing Afghans with pending asylum cases to act as interpreters during the interview.**
- **What is the current policy for interpreters?**
  - *As of July 21, 2022:* USCIS has extended its COVID regulations through March 2023, requiring most applicants to use USCIS contracted interpreters. However, see above. There is a *limited exception* for OAW cases due to lack of availability of interpreters who speak languages such as Dari and Pashto. Applicants are asked to provide their own interpreters if possible (must not be another asylum seeker). However, please note the asylum office retains the right to reschedule the interview.
  - If your client speaks a rare language, you can bring an interpreter with you. It is at the discretion of the Asylum Officer as to whether a client's interpreter will be used during the interview or whether the interview will be rescheduled.
  - Please note the below communication with the **Arlington Asylum Office** specifically:
    - *For Afghan applicants who speak the common Afghan languages (Dari, Pashto, Farsi, Uzbek, and Urdu), the Asylum Division has invoked the exception in 8 CFR 208.9(h)(1)(i) to exercise discretion to allow these applicants to bring their own interpreters, due to an increased demand for Afghan language interpreters and limited availability. If you and your client are not able to bring an interpreter, we of course will contact one of our telephonic interpreters, but there may be a delay in obtaining an interpreter, depending on their availability.*

## Post Interview

- **How long is too long to wait for a decision on the asylum application after my client's interview?**
  - Per Congressional instruction, USCIS is required to adjudicate Afghan asylum cases within 150 days of filing an asylum application (if there are no "exceptional circumstances").
  - If your client is experiencing a delay in receipt of a decision on their asylum case (beyond 150 days of when the application was filed), USCIS advises emailing the asylum office where case was interviewed with the subject line "OAW interview adjudication" to flag the case for adjudication.

## Miscellaneous

### Family Related Issues

- **My client has a child who was born in the U.S. Does the child need an application for asylum?**
  - A child born in the U.S. is a U.S. citizen by birth, and does not need an application for asylum to enjoy legal status and protection in the U.S. The parent(s) should still plan to list the child as their child on the I589 Application for Asylum, however. If the child was born *after* filing the application for asylum but *before* the asylum interview, the client will want to update the I589 by advising the USCIS Asylum Officer at the interview. It may be useful to bring a copy of the child's birth certificate to the interview, to ensure that the Asylum Officer has the correct information and spelling of the child's name.

- **My client has family still in Afghanistan that they want to bring to the U.S. How can the asylum process benefit them?**
  - After being granted asylum, an asylee in the U.S. can petition to confer derivative asylum status on certain family members through the [I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition](#) process. Keep in mind, an individual can only pursue this process *after* winning asylum, and within two years of being granted asylum. The I-730 process will enable the asylee to petition for derivative benefits for their legal spouse (and as noted below, only the first spouse if the individual has multiple spouses), and unmarried children who were under 21 years of age at the time the asylum application was filed.
  - Once an I-730 petition is approved, the asylee's family member will be able to process their status and obtain permission to travel to the U.S. from a U.S. Embassy abroad. However, the U.S. no longer has diplomatic relations (or an embassy) in Afghanistan, so that process will need to occur in another country. Having an approved I-730 will not necessarily make the process of leaving Afghanistan and entering a third country easier or safer. An asylee and their I-730 beneficiary family members should take great care in how the family member(s) abroad pursue this avenue for coming to the United States.
  
- **My client has multiple wives in Afghanistan, and children from these multiple marriages. Will this be an issue?**
  - Even though polygamy is lawful in Afghanistan, because polygamy is outlawed in the U.S., U.S. immigration law only recognizes the spouse from the first marriage. See *Matter of H-*, 9 I&N Dec 640 (BIA 1962). If the client wins asylum, as noted above, they should be able to file a petition to confer derivative benefits on their first spouse abroad via Form I-730. Unfortunately, subsequent spouses (where the marriages were entered into while the first marriage was still legally valid) will not be recognized or accorded any derivative immigration benefit.
  - Note that any/all *biological* children, regardless of whether they were conceived in the first marriage or a subsequent marriage, should be considered the client's children for purposes of deriving immigration benefits like asylum. Unmarried children who were under the age of 21 at the time the parent filed for asylum should be eligible for derivative benefits, as noted above.
  - Any *stepchildren* from a client's second or subsequent marriages (entered into while the client's first marriage was still legally valid) will not be considered the client's children for U.S. immigration purposes because, as noted above, the second and subsequent marriages are not considered valid under U.S. immigration law.
  
- **I am concerned about the validity of my client's marriage. My client and/or my client's spouse were underage (under 18) at the time they married. Or my client and their spouse are family members (cousins, or uncle/niece, or aunt/nephew, etc.). Will this be an issue?**
  - The validity of a marriage should not bear on whether the person is eligible for asylum, but it may bear on whether the person can confer immigration benefits to their spouse.
  - Generally, U.S. immigration law will recognize a marriage if it is valid in the place where it was celebrated. See e.g. *Matter of Lovo-Lara*, 23 I&N Dec. 746 (BIA 2005); *Matter of Da*

*Silva*, 15 I&N Dec. 778 (BIA 1976); *Matter of H-*, 9 I&N Dec 640 (BIA 1962). However, certain marriages, even if valid in the place of celebration, will not be recognized under U.S. immigration law. Certain marriages that are considered to violate the “strong public policy of the state of residence” of the couple will not be recognized under U.S. immigration law. Generally, a marriage that is barred or otherwise not recognized in that state would not necessarily be considered to violate the public policy of the state; in contrast, where a particular marriage is considered criminal, that marriage would be considered to violate public policy and would not be recognized under U.S. immigration law.

- **Practice Tip:** If a client’s marriage would have been considered unlawful previously, but would be considered lawful now (for example, due to the age of the spouses at the time of the marriage) they may want to consider re-marrying in the U.S. to preserve the ability of their spouse to derive benefits. They should still disclose the first wedding to USCIS, possibly on an addendum sheet to the form, to be honest and candid with the immigration officer.
- **Practice Tip:** Marriage between cousins is legal in about half of U.S. states. Marriage between uncles/nieces or aunts/nephews, where there is a blood relation, appears to be illegal in all or most states. The age of consent to marry is eighteen in most states, although some states allow people as young as fifteen to marry with parental consent. If you have identified a potential issue with your clients’ marriage, we encourage you to research the laws in the state where they reside to help determine whether their marriage is valid, and raise this issue in the HIAS/ABA COI weekly office hours.

## Other Immigration Statuses / Relief

- **My client is also eligible for a Special Immigrant Visa (SIV). What kind of information or support should I provide them? Will it affect their asylum case?**
  - Fantastic resources on SIV are available via IRAP's website  
<https://support.iraplegalinfo.org/hc/en-us/categories/360003007932-I-m-looking-for-information-about-refugee-status-or-immigration-pathways>
  - Please note the SIV process for \*certain\* individuals has changed as of 7/20/2022. The most up to date information available to HIAS can be found here:  
<https://hiasny.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/LegalProBonoAttorneySharingProject/EUdDgDB2xIVJtflcJfsrLf8BZxEyIIT6NdTBqSDL9P3Rvw?e=41eM2j>  
We will continue to update these resources as they become available.
  - Having a pending SIV case may be helpful to argue that your asylum-seeking client, who formerly worked for or on behalf of the U.S. government or U.S. military or International Security Forces, has a well-founded fear of future persecution based on that work. The Department of State has published the statement below in the Foreign Affairs Manual (FAM), noting that all applicants with qualifying employment face an ongoing serious threat for SIV purposes. This may also be helpful to cite when attempting to establish fear of persecution in Afghanistan for asylum purposes. See 9 FAM 502.5-12(B) (a)(4)(b)  
<https://fam.state.gov/FAM/09FAM/09FAM050205.html>

- **My client is also eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). What kind of information or support should I provide?**
  - HIAS has created an FAQ sheet on TPS for Afghans, available [here](#).

## Other Miscellaneous Issues

- **My client was incorrectly issued parole for one year instead of two years. How can I locate or adjust their I-94 form?**
  - CBP has created a new email inbox to address these specific issues. As of now, response times tend to fluctuate between 24-48 hours.
  - Effective immediately, all OAR/OAW inquiries requesting assistance in locating or adjusting I-94s should now be sent to [OAWI94ADJUSTMENTS@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:OAWI94ADJUSTMENTS@cbp.dhs.gov) and include the following information:
    - Complete name
    - Date of Birth
    - Country of Birth
    - Picture of passport or photo ID (all documents must be translated to English)
    - Date and location of arrival
    - A# if available
  - Please see updated guidance by USCIS as to how an incorrect parole date affects a client's EAD card:
    - If you are an Afghan parolee who received an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) that authorized employment for less than 2 years, we may need to update your EAD validity date. Certain Afghan parolees under Operation Allies Welcome initially received parole for less than 2 years from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which has corrected its parole period to a full 2 years. USCIS will extend the validity of initial EADs for these parolees to authorize employment for a full 2 years. If we need to update your EAD validity date, we will issue a Form I-797C approval notice. If you have additional questions, please email [OAWEADExtensions@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:OAWEADExtensions@uscis.dhs.gov).
- **My client is interested in applying to go back to school. Are they eligible for financial aid?**
  - According to the [Federal Financial Aid website](#), parolees who are paroled for at least one year are eligible to apply for federal financial aid. Individuals who win asylum are also eligible for federal financial aid.
- **My client is worried about healthcare services in the US. Are they eligible for health insurance?**
  - According to the [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) website, parolees qualify to use the Marketplace.
- **My client heard that the FBI visited their friends at their home. How can I prepare my client in case the FBI comes to talk to them as well?**
  - Your client has the right to be politically active and to hold different beliefs/views. This right is protected by the U.S. Constitution.
  - If they are visited by the FBI, they should remember:

- They do **not** have to talk to the FBI. They have no obligation to talk to the FBI, even if they are not a U.S. citizen. Refusing to answer questions cannot be held against them. Your client should consult with you, or another attorney, before answering any questions.
- Your client does not have to grant the FBI permission to enter their home or office. FBI agents must possess a search warrant to enter their house. If the agents claim to have a warrant, your client can request to see it before allowing them to enter. Even if the FBI agents have a warrant, your client is still not under any obligation to answer questions.
- If your client chooses to speak to the FBI, they should never lie or provide false information to the FBI. It is better to refuse to answer any questions. Lying to an FBI agent is a crime. (See more here: <https://www.cair.com/know-your-rights/>)
- KYR materials in Dari and Pashto are saved [here](#).