

Refugee Status Termination Notices

What changed and how to be ready

A recent government change may affect some refugees who do not have their green cards (including refugees who have applied for a green card but not have received it yet).

Please read this so you are prepared. Please do not panic. The important thing is to know what to do.

The government may send a letter called a **Notice of Intent to Terminate (NOIT)**.



If you receive this letter, you will have a very short time to respond!

10 days

If the notice is handed to you in person

13 days

If the notice is mailed to you

SAMPLE LETTER

The letter may look like this or it could look different

U.S. Department of Homeland Security ATTN: PARRIS
401 W. Peachtree St., Ste. 2500
Atlanta, GA 30308
[USCIS Logo]

Date: []
[Name]

Notice of Intent to Terminate Refugee Status

Re: [A#]

Dear [Name]

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the intent of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to terminate the refugee status you were granted upon admission on []. The sole basis for terminating the status of an alien admitted to the United States as a refugee under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act) is a determination that he/she was not a refugee within the meaning of Section 101 (a)(42) of the Act at the time of his/her admission. See Matter of Garcia-Alzugaray - 19 I&N Dec. 407 (BIA 1986) and INA 207(c)(4). Section 101(a)(42) of the Act states in pertinent part:

The term "refugee" means any person ... who is unable or unwilling to return to, and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of, that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion ...

Following post-admission review and reverification of your case, available evidence indicates you did not meet the definition of a refugee under the Act at the time of your admission to the United States. [If applicable - "You were requested to attend a post-admission reinterview to establish certain elements of your refugee case that did not meet the standard of proof at the time of your initial interview and adjudication."]

[Past Persecution]

[SAMPLE - Past Persecution Not Established]

On [date], you were interviewed in [country] by USCIS. Your original approval of Form I-590 was based on claims of past persecution and a well-founded fear of future persecution in your country of origin. [I]. In support of your claim of past persecution, during your refugee processing interview, you indicated that [I]. Your claim of well-founded fear was based on [I]. However, the available evidence does not sufficiently establish all the required elements of past persecution or a well-founded fear.

For refugee cases, past persecution is established when an applicant demonstrates that they have suffered significant harm or mistreatment in their country of origin on account of one or more of the five protected grounds: race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. The harm must be substantial.

⁴¹ On October 14, 2026, DHS noticed an Interim Final Rule (IFR), reducing refugees' time to respond to Notices of Intent to Terminate their Refugee Status from thirty days to ten days. NOIT's issued on or after October 14, 2026 are expected to contain different language regarding deadlines.

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The deadline is 13 days from the date USCIS mails the letter.

Weekends and holidays count. If the 13th day is a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, the deadline moves to the next business day.

IMPORTANT NEWS!



If you do not respond by the deadline, USCIS says it will terminate your refugee status.

When refugee status is terminated:

- Your permission to work based on refugee status ends
- The government can begin the process to remove you from the United States

A Notice of Intent to Terminate (NOIT) is NOT a final decision. You have the right to respond!

THREE IMPORTANT THINGS you can do now:

1

Keep your address up to date.

If you move, file Form AR-11 online immediately uscis.gov/addresschange

2

Check your mailbox every day

Your deadline is calculated from the date USCIS mails the notice, not the date you receive it. Weekends and holidays count! If the final day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or federal holiday, the deadline moves to the next business day.

3

Get help immediately if you receive a letter that says:

- Notice of Intent to Terminate (NOIT)
- Termination Notice
- Notice to Appear

GET HELP



CIRA

Center for Immigrant & Refugee Advancement



4223 Center St.
Omaha, NE, 68105



Monday - Friday
9:00am - 5:00pm



1-855-307-6730

After hours and on weekends

If you are not able to reach CIRA, you can email or text your notice to Restoring Dignity and we will connect you with CIRA



info@rdomaha.org



402-370-9777



We do not know how many of these notices will be mailed out. And we do not want to scare anyone.

Please do not panic.

Your job is to know what to do if you receive one of these notices. There are a lot of good people who will help you navigate through this!