



New Asylee Information



I. Important Documents

- a. I-94
 - i. Make a copy and keep it safe.
 - ii. Do not modify.
- b. Asylum grant letter from the Asylum Office
 - i. Make a copy and keep it safe.
 - ii. Do not modify.
- c. Unrestricted Social Security Card
 - i. If you do not receive an unrestricted social security card after your asylum approval, you must go to the social security office and get one. You will need to bring your I-94 or asylum approval letter and your passport or photo ID.
- d. Employment Authorization Document (EAD)
 - i. Valid for 2 years.
 - ii. You do not need to have an EAD to work.
 - iii. You can work with your unrestricted social security and I-94.

2. Important Information

- a. Your asylum is indefinite, it never expires.
- b. You can apply for residency one year from the date of approval.
- c. You can pass on your asylum to your spouse and/or children.
 - i. You must do so within 2 years.
- d. You can not travel outside of the United States unless you have a refugee travel document.
- e. You can travel within the United States freely.
- f. You cannot return to your home country.

3. California Identification or California Driver's License

- a. You can renew it for 5 years now. You can also obtain a California "Real" ID.

4. Refugee/Asylee Public Benefits

- a. You are entitled to the following benefits after asylum approval. Apply as soon as possible. For more information, please see additional flyer.
- b. Receiving public assistance will not affect your immigration status in the future.
 - i. CalFresh – Food
 - ii. CalWorks – Cash assistance only available if you have children
 - iii. Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA) – RCA is only available for the first 8 months and only if you do not have children
 - iv. Employment Assistance
 - v. MediCal – Health Care

5. Criminal

- a. Understand and abide by all laws
- b. Be mindful of social media presence
- c. Committing a serious felony could put your asylum at risk, such as:
 - i. Domestic Violence
 - ii. Child Abuse
 - iii. Crimes of Violence
 - iv. Buying, Selling or Using Drugs or Driving under the influence of Drugs or Alcohol
- d. Although marijuana is legal in California, it is still a federal offense to possess marijuana, and it could affect your asylum and immigration status in the future.

6. Selective Service

- a. Males 18–25 years old must register for the selective service.
- b. Register at www.sss.gov
- c. Keep proof of registration
- d. Required for Citizenship

7. Federal and State Income Taxes

- a. File your Federal and State taxes each year you earn an income.

8. Change of Address

- a. You must notify USCIS within 10 days of moving of your new address if you have any pending applications.