



*Community FAQ**

The Benefits, Risks, and Process for Applying for Parole-in-Place Under the Family Reunification Task Force Process July 2022 (updated May 2024)

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s [Family Reunification Task Force](#) has established a parole process for some people who were separated at the U.S.-Mexico border between January 20, 2017 and January 20, 2021 as a result of the Trump administration's Zero-Tolerance Policy and other similar Trump administration practices. This process has been established through negotiations in a lawsuit called [Ms. L. v. ICE](#), which has now reached a [settlement](#). Parents and children who were deported as a result of the Zero-Tolerance Policy can benefit from humanitarian parole. Parents, children, and other family members who were not deported as a result of the policy and currently live in the United States may benefit from parole-in-place. While parole-in-place carries many benefits, applying for parole-in-place may also carry some risks. Through this Community FAQ, you will learn about the application process for parole-in-place for separated families and understand both the benefits and risks of submitting an application.

What is parole-in-place?

Parole-in-place is a kind of temporary permission to be in the United States that United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) can discretionarily give to noncitizens who are already in the United States on a case-by-case basis, where there is urgent humanitarian reason or significant public benefit.

Who is eligible for parole-in-place?

Under the Family Reunification Task Force process, parole-in-place is available to people who were separated at the United States-Mexico border by immigration authorities between January 20, 2017 and January 20, 2021 under Trump's Zero-Tolerance and related family separation policies. In addition to parents/guardians and children who were separated, additional family members may be eligible to apply for parole-in-place.

Example: A father and daughter were separated at the border and were later released from detention into the interior of the United States. Upon release, they travel to rejoin the daughter's mother and the three live together. The separated father and daughter as well as the child's mother would be eligible to apply for parole-in-place.

* This Community FAQ is for informational purposes only and is not legal advice. To get legal advice specific to your situation, consult a qualified immigration attorney.

Additional family members who entered the United States after June 18, 2022 are not eligible to apply for parole-in-place.

Other kinds of immigration proceedings do not affect a person's eligibility for parole-in-place. For example, people can get parole-in-place even if they are currently in deportation proceedings before an Immigration Court, have submitted an asylum application to USCIS, or have received an order of deportation. Additionally, if a separated parent and/or child received humanitarian parole and returned to the United States through the Family Reunification Task Force process or through a court order, their additional family members such as a spouse, other child, or other family member who are already in the United States are eligible to apply for parole-in-place.

How long does parole-in-place last and is it renewable?

Parole-in-place granted by the Family Reunification Task Force will last for three years. Family members who are in the United States can request additional periods of parole with USCIS *before* the initial 3-year parole period expires but must show a continued need. It is possible that a future presidential administration could make it harder for these families to get a parole renewal.

What are some benefits of being granted parole-in-place?

A grant of parole-in-place will let the recipients stay in the United States and they will generally be protected from deportation for three years. Parole-in-place recipients will be eligible to apply for a work permit and do not have to pay the application fee. If granted, the work permit lasts for three years, or as long as the parole is valid. Depending on the state they live in, people granted parole-in-place may be eligible for public benefits like cash assistance programs. If a person who entered the U.S. without permission is eligible to be the beneficiary of a petition to immigrate through a U.S. citizen family member (called an I-130), getting parole-in-place may let that person apply for a green card without leaving the country. We encourage families to consult with an immigration lawyer before going through the family petition process. Importantly, however, parole-in-place does not lead to a green card by itself.

What are some risks of applying for parole-in-place?

Applying for parole-in-place under the DHS Family Reunification Task Force requires the applicant to give sensitive information to DHS. Parole-in-place applicants will share their home address, fingerprints, and photograph with DHS. United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) could potentially use information shared with USCIS to arrest and deport the applicant. Although the Biden administration has pledged to reunite separated families and keep them together, it is important to keep in mind that every application will go through a background check process, and future presidential administrations could change course.

USCIS may choose to deny an application for parole-in-place. If a person's application is denied, and they are identified as an [enforcement priority](#), that person could get arrested and detained

and/or put into deportation proceedings, and could ultimately be deported. This is a particular risk for additional family members of the separated parent and child because, among other reasons, they may be submitting information to the government that makes the government aware for the first time that they are in the United States. Such family members may face a higher risk of having their applications denied and suffering negative consequences from giving their information to DHS. People considering applying for parole-in-place **should first talk with an immigration lawyer** if they have:

- ❗ A prior arrest, detention or criminal record of any sort, even if they believe that no record of it exists
- ❗ An unlawful entry into the United States on or after June 18, 2022
- ❗ Multiple unlawful entries into the United States
- ❗ A prior deportation order (does not apply to separated parent or child)

What are the requirements for applying for parole-in-place?

The specific requirements for applying for parole-in-place are different depending on which family member is applying for the benefit. Generally, it is easier for a separated parent or child to meet the requirements than it is for other family members, as reflected by the below color-coding.

<i>Application Requirements</i>	Separated parent/guardian and child	Spouse of separated parent and other minor children	Additional family members
<i>Identification</i>	Government-issued photo identification that is valid and unexpired	Unexpired passport	Unexpired passport
<i>Proving relationship</i>	No evidence of relationship required	Evidence showing family relationship with separated family members (e.g., birth certificate, marriage certificate)	Evidence showing family relationship with separated family members (e.g., birth certificate, marriage certificate)
<i>Establishing date of entry</i>	No evidence of date of entry required	Statements or documentation showing entry into the United States before June 18, 2022	Statements or documentation showing entry into the United States before June 18, 2022
<i>Proving cohabitation (living together)</i>	No evidence of living together required	No evidence of living together required	Evidence showing living together with the separated family members

When must additional family members file their parole-in-place applications relative to the separated parent or child?

Families should submit all family members' applications for parole-in-place at the same time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Should I apply for parole-in-place if my case is pending in immigration court?

People can get parole-in-place even if they are currently in deportation proceedings, but DHS may require them to delay or pause their immigration court case. DHS may do this because they do not want to spend government resources on allowing a person to temporarily remain in the United States and hearing their immigration cases at the same time.

Is there a fee to apply for parole-in-place?

No, there is no fee to apply for parole-in-place under the Family Reunification Task Force Process.

How do I apply for parole-in-place?

People who have an immigration lawyer should talk with their lawyer about applying for this benefit. Whether or not a family has a lawyer, the process starts with registering on together.gov. Only one registration is needed per family and should include all family members who were separated at the border. After registration, an employee of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will be in contact to help complete the applications for parole-in-place. You should talk to your immigration lawyer if you have questions or concerns about this process.

Is parole-in-place the same thing as asylum?

No, parole-in-place is not the same thing as asylum. United States immigration law allows persons fleeing persecution who arrive at our borders, or are already in the United States, to seek asylum protection. Asylum provides a pathway to U.S. citizenship whereas parole-in-place is temporary and does not provide a pathway to U.S. citizenship. A person who has been granted parole-in-place and is in the United States may, if eligible, apply for asylum or related relief as well as other immigration benefits. The *Ms. L. v. ICE* [settlement](#) provides a pathway for separated families to apply for asylum.