

DACA Renewal

To renew your Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), you need to file a form and pay a fee. This process is pretty straightforward. However, if anything important has changed since you originally received DACA, you need to update Immigration and provide evidence. Examples include, contact with police or a change in marital status.

How to Renew DACA

When Should I Renew My DACA?

USCIS recommends submitting renewal requests about five months before your current DACA will expire. In the past, USCIS would send letters reminding recipients when they needed to renew their DACA. But this is no longer the case. So you need to know when your DACA and work permit will expire.

Renew Your DACA and Work Permit Together

One common mistake people make is renewing their work permit but not their DACA. You need to renew your DACA and your work permit at the same time. If you don't renew your DACA along with your work permit, your work permit will be denied.

Please note: if you received a one-year work permit prior to December 7, 2020, it has automatically been extended to two years.

DACA Forms

To renew your DACA, you will complete and submit Form [I-821D](#). This is the same form you used to originally apply.

At the same time, you will also submit Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization. However, unlike most work permits, DACA recipients must explain why they need to work. The reasons you need to work may include: paying rent or a mortgage; feeding your children; saving for your children's college fund; and other basic needs. You will list your economic necessities in Form I-765WS. If you have any questions, your immigration attorney can help.

Report Any Changes

To renew DACA, you do not need to resend all of the evidence from your original application. In fact, if nothing has changed, you do not need to include any evidence when you submit your new I-821D. However, if something significant has changed since you originally applied, you need to tell Immigration.

For example, if your marital status has changed, you need to send a copy of your marriage or divorce certificate. If your name changes for a different reason, you need to submit proof that you are allowed to do so. This will also ensure that the name on your work permit is up to date.

Also, if you have a new type of economic necessity, include proof of it in your work permit application. For example, if you now need to pay for your child's education, you may include a copy of your child's tuition statement. Or maybe your need to work is based on insurance for a new medical problem. Then you might include evidence such as a doctor's note.

Lastly, you need to let Immigration know if you have had any contact with law enforcement since you first got DACA. In this case, you need to provide copies of certified court dispositions. Do not try to lie about contact with police because it won't work. Immigration will take your fingerprints at your biometrics appointment, which will show them any criminal activity from your past.

Biometrics Appointment

After you submit your DACA renewal application, Immigration will send you a receipt notice in the mail. Then, you will receive a notice to go to your [biometrics appointment](#). Also known as your ASC appointment, this is when Immigration will take a digital photo of your face and a digital fingerprint.

If you cannot make it to your appointment, you must tell Immigration in writing. Make sure that you send that letter from the post office with “return receipt requested”. This way, you can prove that Immigration received your request.

Criminal Record Warning

Tell your lawyer if you have had any arrests since your last DACA. Remember, Immigration will use your fingerprints to find your criminal record, and they will definitely know about any arrests. Some criminal activity could make you ineligible for immigration benefits, or worse, could make you deportable. However, your lawyer cannot help you if you do not tell them about all of your contact with law enforcement. Lying to Immigration won’t work, and lying to your lawyer won’t help. So be honest with your lawyer about any contact with police.

Frequently Asked Questions

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Can I travel on DACA?

If you have advance parole with your DACA, you can travel outside of the United States and return lawfully. However, you cannot apply for advance parole until after you already have an approved DACA.

As of December 7, 2020, Immigration has resumed processing advance parole applications for those who have an approved DACA.

Can I get a fee waiver for DACA and my work permit?

No, you must pay the fees to cover the cost of processing your work permit and biometrics appointment. Please check the [fee page at USCIS.gov](#) for the latest information.

Is there any way for me to get lawful permanent residency or a green card through DACA?

No, deferred action is strictly temporary, and you must renew it as it expires.

Can I Lose DACA?

Any immigrant can lose deferred action for criminal behavior, or for leaving the country without permission to return.

I heard that some work permits are automatically extended for 180 days after they expire if Immigration is still processing its renewal. Will my work permit be automatically extended if Immigration takes a long time to process its renewal?

No, DACA is not one of the Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) that comes with automatic renewal. If your work permit expires before it is extended, you will not be allowed to work.

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[Table of Contents](#)

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