



## Alien<sup>1</sup> Registration Requirement by USCIS

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has introduced a new foreign national registration requirement, effective April 11, 2025, to enforce existing immigration laws under the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Below is an overview of the key aspects of this policy, including who must register, exemptions, the registration process, consequences of non-compliance, and additional requirements.

### 1. Overview of Registration Requirement

#### *i. What is it?*

- i. The Registration Requirement mandates that certain foreign nationals in the U.S. register their presence with the federal government. This involves submitting personal information via a new form (Form G-325R) and potentially undergoing fingerprinting. Failure to comply may result in civil or criminal penalties, including fines or misdemeanor charges.
- ii. Registration does not grant immigration status, work authorization, or other legal rights under U.S. law.

#### *ii. Who Needs to Register?*

- i. Individuals present in the U.S. who entered without inspection or through land borders without receiving evidence of registration (foreign nationals who cross the border unlawfully).
  1. This includes Canadian visitors who entered by land and did not receive a Form I-94 or any official registration document.
- ii. Certain Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients who do not have Employment Authorization Documents/never issued official registration evidence.
- iii. Foreign nationals aged 14 or older who were not fingerprinted or registered when applying for a U.S. visa and have stayed in the U.S. for more than 30 days.
- iv. Children under 14 must be registered by their parents or legal guardians.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this document, the term "registration requirement" replaces the official title containing the term "alien," and "foreign nationals" is used in place of "alien" to promote respectful and inclusive communication.



iii. *Who is Exempt from Registration?*

The following individuals are considered already registered and do not need to take further action:

- i. Lawful Permanent Residents.
- ii. Individuals issued immigrant or nonimmigrant visas before their last date of arrival who are present in the U.S.
- iii. Individuals admitted as nonimmigrants who were issued Form I-94/I-94W (even if period of admission has expired).
- iv. Those paroled into the U.S. under INA §212(d)(5), even if the parole has expired.
- v. Individuals in removal proceedings or issued Employment Authorization Documents.
- vi. Applicants for lawful permanent residence using specific forms (e.g., Form I-485, I-687, I-691, I-698, I-700) who provided fingerprints.
- vii. Foreign Nationals issued Border Crossing Cards.

**2. How to Register**

- i. Create a USCIS Online Account: Each foreign national must create their own individual account on the USCIS website. Parents/guardians can create accounts for children under 14. See <https://www.uscis.gov/file-online/how-to-create-a-uscis-online-account> for more information on how to create a USCIS Online Account.
- ii. Submit Form G-325R: Complete and submit the form online through your USCIS account. This includes providing biographical information.
- iii. Attend Biometrics Appointment: If required, USCIS will schedule an appointment for fingerprinting at a local Application Support Center. There is no fee. See <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-guidance/preparing-for-your-biometric-services-appointment> for more information on what to expect.
  - i. Children under 14 are exempt from fingerprinting
  - ii. Missing your biometric services appointment could result in a failure to register, which may lead to criminal penalties.
- iv. Upon obtaining proof of registration via your USCIS online account, please print it and ensure you carry it with you at all times. It is mandatory for individuals aged 18 and older to have proof of registration on them at all times.



### 3. **Penalties:**

- i. Failure to comply with the registration and fingerprinting requirements may result in a fine of up to \$5000, imprisonment of up to six months, or both. Noncompliance is considered a criminal offense. **This applies to the parents or guardians of children who fail to comply.**
- ii. Failure to carry proof of registration for those 18 years or older could result in a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$5000, imprisonment of up to 30 days, or both. Noncompliance is considered a criminal offense.
- iii. Failure to register one's change of address is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$5000, imprisonment of up to 30 days, or both. Noncompliance is considered a criminal offense. In addition, failure to comply with the change of address notification is a deportable offense unless the alien can establish the failure was reasonably excusable or not willful.

### 4. **Important Note for Foreign Nationals Who Chose to Register:**

We strongly recommend that all foreign nationals review the official USCIS announcement (<https://www.uscis.gov/alienregistration>) to determine: (i) whether you are subject to the registration requirement; (ii) whether your current registration meets the requirements listed in the announcement; or (iii) whether you fall into the category of those not registered.

### 5. **Additional Registration Requirements**

- i. Responsibilities of Parents and Guardians:
  - i. Parents or legal guardians must ensure children under 14 are registered.
  - ii. When children turn 14, they must complete fingerprinting within 30 days of their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday.
  - iii. Noncompliance by parents may result in penalties.

\*See <https://www.uscis.gov/alienregistration> for more information.