



Immigration Legal Support for Afghans

The organizations listed below provide free or low-cost immigration legal services under the Illinois Access to Justice (ILA2J) Afghan Legal Support program. All consultations for cases under ILA2J are free, and the maximum amount that can be charged for legal representation is \$50.

1 Afghan Legal Orientation

Afghans who were paroled into the United States after July 31, 2021 have temporary authorization to remain in the United States and are eligible for certain public benefits. In order to remain in the United States permanently, most Afghan parolees will need to apply for a more permanent form of immigration relief.



If you are an Afghan parolee who resides in Illinois, Indiana or Wisconsin (not at a military base), please sign up to participate virtually in an NIJC legal orientation session for Afghan parolees first to learn about your legal options. Sessions are scheduled on a monthly basis and are provided in Pashto, Dari, and English.

Register at: <https://immigrantjustice.org/afghansupport>

2 Referral to Legal Service Providers

After completing the legal orientation for Afghans, you may be referred to any of the following organizations for legal representation, depending on your immigration relief options and organizational capacity:

Catholic Charities (312) 427-7078
Monday-Friday 2-4pm

Cases accepted:

- Humanitarian parole
- Relative of refugee or asylee petition
- Special Immigrant Visas
- Family-based petitions

205 W Monroe St, Ste 200
Chicago, IL 60606

www.catholiccharities.net

North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic (847) 737-4042

Cases accepted:

- Asylum
- Humanitarian parole
- Special Immigrant Visas

3500 Western Ave, Ste. 2A
Highland Park, IL 60035

nslegalaid.org

Children's Legal Center (872) 225-4901 (Dari, Farsi)
(872) 225-4918 (Pashto)

Cases accepted:

- Asylum
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)
- Humanitarian parole

833 W Chicago Ave, Ste 320,
Chicago IL 60642

childrenslegalcenterchicago.org

Syrian Community Network (773) 654-1218

Cases accepted:

- Asylum
- Humanitarian parole
- Relative of refugee or asylee petition

5439 N Broadway St, Ste 1
Chicago, IL 60640

syriancommunitynetwork.org

Muslim Women Resource Center (773) 764-1686

Cases accepted:

- Asylum - screenings only
- Adjustment of status
- Family-based petitions
- Humanitarian parole
- Consular processing

2828 W Devon Ave
Chicago, IL 60659

www.mwrcnfp.org

University YMCA (217) 417 5897

Cases accepted:

- Asylum
- Humanitarian parole
- Special Immigrant Visas
- Adjustment of status
- Family-based petitions

1001 S Wright St,
Champaign, IL 61820

universityymca.org/welcome/

Available services may change due to capacity. Some organizations prioritize certain types of immigration cases and may not be able to provide consultation or representation in all situations. This information is meant to be used as a guide and not a guarantee for legal assistance.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



In the United States, everyone has certain rights regardless of their immigration status!

Understanding Your Immigration Status

Many Afghan evacuees do not yet have **permanent** immigration status. The process to obtain permanent status, even if you are eligible, is complicated and depends on your individual situation. Most Afghan evacuees currently have **parole**.

What is Parole?

- Temporary authorization to remain in the United States
- Does not lead to permanent immigration status
- If you entered the United States with parole, you can apply for employment authorization (a work permit) and a restricted social security card



What can I do with my work permit?

- You have the right to work lawfully until your work permit expires
- Employers cannot ask you how you obtained your work permit
- If the work permit will expire soon, employers can ask you for an updated work permit, but they cannot fire you until after it has expired
- *If you didn't apply for a work permit at a military base OR you filed but you still have not received it, talk to your Refugee Resettlement Case Manager!*

Getting Immigration Legal Help

- Getting a legal consultation is very important! But you need to protect yourself from fraud
- In the United States, **ONLY** immigration attorneys and DOJ-accredited representatives can give immigration legal advice and file immigration applications on your behalf
- Department of Justice (DOJ) recognized organizations are nonprofits. Verify that your representative is accredited at justice.gov/eoir/ra/raroster.htm
- Before signing a retainer, ask your attorney if they have immigration experience and review their license
- All agencies listed on this flyer have trusted attorneys and/or DOJ accredited representatives

Your Rights & Responsibilities

- Your immigration case follows you anywhere you go in the US. If you move, you **must** change your address with immigration. Use Form AR-11:
 - www.uscis.gov/ar-11
- Do not register to vote if you are not a US Citizen
- Do not say or write anywhere that you are a US Citizen

If you are stopped by Police or Immigration, you have the right to:

- Remain silent and not answer questions
- Not open the door
- Not sign anything
- Ask to speak with an attorney

Prepare an Emergency Plan:

- Memorize your A Number (9 digit number on USCIS documentation)
- Memorize the phone number of a trusted family member or friend, an attorney, and your refugee resettlement case manager
- Keep your family's documents in a safe place