



Immigration Attorneys — Temple Terrace, FL

Adjustment of Status (Form I-485)

A Plain-Language Document Checklist

If you're applying for a green card through Adjustment of Status, USCIS will ask you to submit a lot of paperwork. This checklist walks you through what you'll typically need to gather, in plain English — so nothing catches you by surprise.

This is general information, not legal advice. Your case may need more (or fewer) documents depending on your situation — that's exactly what a consultation is for.

Identity & Family Documents

- ☐ Valid passport — copy of every page, including visa stamps
- ☐ Birth certificate (certified copy; translated into English if needed)
- ☐ Marriage certificate, if you're married
- ☐ Divorce decree(s) from any previous marriages — yours and your spouse's

Immigration & Entry Records

- ☐ Copy of your visa stamp or I-94 entry/exit record
- ☐ Approval notice (Form I-797) for any immigration petition already filed for you
- ☐ Copy of your current work permit (EAD), if you have one

Medical Exam

- ☐ Sealed Form I-693 medical exam packet from a USCIS-approved civil surgeon
- ☐ Your vaccination records, if you have them — bring them to the exam

Schedule this early. Appointments can be booked out for several weeks.

Background Check

- ☐ Police clearance letter from any country where you've lived 6+ months since age 16
- ☐ Certified court records for any arrest or charge — even if it was dismissed or expunged

Don't leave anything out here, even old or minor matters. Undisclosed history causes far more problems than disclosed history.

Financial Sponsorship

- ☐ Affidavit of Support (Form I-864) from your sponsor
- ☐ Sponsor's tax returns for the last 3 years
- ☐ Sponsor's recent pay stubs and W-2 forms

If You Have Children Applying With You

- ☐ Birth certificate for each unmarried child under 21

A Simple Timeline

60 days before filing: Start gathering identity and immigration documents; schedule your medical exam.

30 days before filing: Request police clearances — these can take several weeks to arrive.

14 days before filing: Get your sponsor's Affidavit of Support signed and notarized.

Filing day: Submit your complete I-485 package to USCIS.

After filing: Watch for your receipt notice (Form I-797), usually within 2–3 weeks.

A note from Ahmad

Every case is different, and small details in your history — a prior visa denial, a past arrest, a gap in status — can change what you need or how your case should be filed. I personally review every case at our firm; I'd rather catch an issue in a consultation than in an RFE.

Ready to talk about your case?

Schedule a consultation at americandreamlawoffice.com

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