



Information on Asylee and Refugee Eligibility

Asylees

The effective date of residence for an asylee is **one year prior to the date of being approved for permanent residence**. The effective date of residence **is reflected on the asylee's Permanent Resident Card** and recorded in all USCIS systems.*

Example: Sarah entered the United States in 2006 and was finally granted asylum status on January 1, 2008. She filed for adjustment of status on March 15, 2010, and her application was approved on July 1, 2010. **Sarah's effective date of residence is rolled back one year, to July 1, 2009, and that date is the one printed on her Permanent Resident Card.** Sarah will thus be eligible for naturalization based on 5 years as a permanent resident on July 1, 2014.

*For more information on asylee rollback, see the USCIS Policy Manual, Vol. 7, Part M, Chap. 5, available at <http://www.uscis.gov/policymanual/HTML/PolicyManual-Volume7-PartM-Chapter5.html>.

Refugees

The effective date of residence for a refugee is **the date of admission as a refugee**. The effective date of residence **is reflected on the refugee's Permanent Resident Card** and recorded in all USCIS systems.*

Note: There have been problems in the past with the effective date not being reflected on the card due to computer errors. If an applicant claims that the date is wrong and has proof of the correct date, go ahead and use the new information. If the applicant claims the date is wrong but does not have proof, refer to an attorney.

Example: Felix was admitted to the United States as a refugee on September 1, 2009. On September 1, 2010, he applied to adjust his status to that of a permanent resident. His application was approved on January 15, 2010. **Felix's effective date of residence is rolled back to September 1, 2009, the date he was admitted as a refugee, and that date is the one printed on his Permanent Resident Card.** Felix will thus be eligible for naturalization based on 5 years as a permanent resident on September 1, 2014.

*For more information on refugee rollback, see the USCIS Policy Manual, Vol. 7, Part L, Chap. 5, available at <http://www.uscis.gov/policymanual/HTML/PolicyManual-Volume7-PartL-Chapter5.html>.