

Form I-730 Following-to Join Refugee Processing Shifts to USCIS International Operations

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BACKGROUND

As of May 6, 2024, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is now processing [Forms I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition](#) for following to join **refugees** (FTJ-Rs) at the USCIS International Operations Division instead of the Asylum Vetting Center. This shift will ensure that a dedicated team will be responsible for the initial domestic processing of Form I-730 (FTJ-R) petitions, thus enhancing the process and making it more efficient for the petitioners and beneficiaries.

Due to this change in processing, petitioners and their legal representatives should no longer contact the Asylum Vetting Center for related inquiries or visit the center or any asylum office regarding Form I-730 (FTJ-Rs) petitions. USCIS International Operations does not accept in-person requests or inquiries.

For questions about checking the status of your case, applicants should visit uscis.gov/casestatus.

For questions about processing times, applicants should visit uscis.gov/processingtimes.

If the applicant or beneficiary receives a document and notices a mistake that was due to USCIS error or a document was not delivered, an electronic request should be made at uscis.gov/e-request.

For all other inquiries visit uscis.gov/tools.

PETITIONERS WITH PENDING OR I-730 REFUGEE PETITIONS FILED ON OR AFTER MAY 6, 2024:

1. USCIS will automatically transfer FTJ-R petitions to USCIS International Operations - no action is required of the petitioner.
2. Petitioners will receive a transfer notice with further instructions.
3. Petitioners should ensure the address on pending Form I-730 is current. If the address needs to be updated, refer to the [special instruction section of Form I-730](#).

OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER

1. This workload shift does not affect the filing location for Forms I-730. Petitioners should continue to file Form I-730 at the USCIS [Texas Service Center](#).
2. Following to join **asylee** petitions are also not affected by the workload shift.
3. More information about the workload shift can be found [here](#).