

Immigration Updates: February 2025

Workshops - 0	Applications - 2	Consultations - 6	Trainings - 0
Upcoming: 03/11-03/12: L1846; Virtual UCAN Workshop 04/22-04/24: UFCW International Conference			

IMMIGRATION CHANGES & UPDATES FROM FEBRUARY

Since taking office on January 20, 2025, President Trump has made immigration enforcement his top priority and has issued executive actions to that effect. He has also had members of his cabinet confirmed by the Senate, and those agency actors are also implementing decisions of their own to carry out the Administration's goals. Here is what has happened in February:

- **Changes to Temporary Protected Status for Haiti**
 - On February 20, 2025, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem altered the original notice designating Haiti for an 18-month extension for Temporary Protected Status protection. Under the new guidance from Secretary Noem, TPS for Haiti will expire after 12 months instead of 18, meaning that the new date of expiration is August 3, 2025. Although TPS recipients from Haiti have government notices and work permits that list the date of expiration as February 3, 2026, that date is now invalid. The government will not reissue documents to this effect; recipients must simply be made aware of the change.
- **Termination of 2023 Designation of Temporary protected Status for Venezuela**
 - On February 3, 2025, Secretary Noem also made changes to Temporary Protected Status for Venezuelans. Specifically, the Secretary decided to undo the previous extension of TPS protections for Venezuelans who fell under the 2023 designation. In effect, this means that those Venezuelans whose TPS ends on April 7, 2025 will not be eligible for a continuation of this protection after that date. Even if someone had previously filed for an extension of the 2023 designation, USCIS will not continue to process it any longer.
 - Venezuelans who will be losing their TPS on April 7, 2025 may be eligible for applying for asylum under 8 CFR 208.4(a)(5)(iv) which states that the "one year deadline" does not apply to those individuals who "maintained Temporary Protected Status, lawful immigrant or nonimmigrant status, or was given parole, until a reasonable period before the filing of the asylum application."
- **Formerly "Protected Areas" from ICE Enforcement No Longer Protected**
 - On January 31, 2025, the Acting ICE Director Caleb Vitello ended the prior guidance to ICE officials telling them that they were not permitted to conduct immigration enforcement actions in places of worship, schools, hospitals, protests, or courtrooms. Going forward, ICE agents will be allowed to conduct enforcement activities in these locations, if they receive permission from their supervisors beforehand.

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- **Trump Administration Discusses New Registration “Requirement” for Undocumented Individuals Within the United States**
 - Upon taking office, President Trump issued an Executive Order in which he directed DHS to create a registry for undocumented people in the United States. The notice states that, with limited exceptions, it is the legal obligation of all unregistered noncitizens (or previously registered children who turn 14 years old) in the United States to comply with the registration requirements, and that failure to comply will result in criminal and civil penalties, including misdemeanor prosecution and fines.
 - To date, no such registry exists. Immigration lawyers roundly critique this registry as criminalizing people who are otherwise law-abiding members of communities in order for the Trump Administration to justify their mass deportation agenda. Undocumented individuals may consider consulting with an immigration attorney before signing up for this registry.

Practical Guidance

- **How to find out your next court date**
 - If you or someone you know is in the immigration court system you can always check to see when their next hearing is by using the EOIR Automated Case Portal. Type their A number into the search bar to see their most up-to-date court information. Their A number can be found on their “Notice to Appear,” on their work permit (called their USCIS number), or on other official documents about immigration from the government. That link is here: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-485>
- **How to find a detainee in ICE Custody**
 - If someone you know is arrested by ICE and is 18 years of age or older (including unaccompanied young adults over 18), you should first try to confirm where they are detained via the [ICE Online Detainee Locator System](#) (ODLS). As of [June 2024](#), you can also use ODLS to search for someone in Border Patrol Custody. Please note that someone detained for three days or less may not show up in the system just yet.
 - If finding them in the ODLS is not working, you can try contacting the ICE Field Office with jurisdiction over the area where they were arrested. This website can show you which ICE office has jurisdiction over which areas: <http://www.ice.gov/contact/field-offices>
 - If that is still not working, consider looking for the person within the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) system using this link: <https://www.bop.gov/inmateloc/>
 - As a final resort, you can try VINE. VINE is a victim-notification network that allows members of the public to be alerted if there is a custody change or transfer of a criminal detainee. If your client was taken into custody by criminal authorities and you believe ICE will place a detainer on them, this site may help you keep track of your client pending transfer: <https://www.vinelink.com/#state-selection>.
 - For a full explainer on all of these resources, see here: <https://www.aila.org/library/practice-pointer-how-to-locate-clients-apprehended-by-ice>

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Helpful Resources and Links You Should Know About:

Resource Name	Description	Link
EOIR Automated Case Portal	If you have an A-Number (a unique number given to non-citizens during encounters with immigration officials), you can use that number to check on the status of your immigration court case on this website and see your upcoming court dates.	English https://acis.eoir.justice.gov/en/ Spanish https://acis.eoir.justice.gov/es/
ICE Detainee Locator	If someone you know has been detained by ICE for at least 48 hours, you will be able to find out where they are detained using this link.	https://locator.ice.gov/odls/#/search
USCIS Case Status Online	If you have a receipt number from USCIS, use this link to see what the latest status of that receipted item is with the agency.	https://egov.uscis.gov/
USCIS Case Inquiry	If you are missing a receipt, if your case is outside of normal processing times, if your document has errors on it due to government mistakes, or if you need to request accommodations for an upcoming appointment, use this link.	https://egov.uscis.gov/e-request/Intro.do
Check Case Processing Times	If you have submitted a case with USCIS, you can see the expected processing times by case type using this website.	https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/
Automatic Employment Authorization Document Extension	If you have a work permit (EAD) that is expiring soon, it is possible that it has been automatically extended. Only some types of work permits are extended automatically. Use this website to see if yours has been.	https://www.uscis.gov/eadautoextend
Special Immigrant Juveniles	If you (or one of your members) are under the age of 21 and unmarried, please check your eligibility for Special Immigrant Juvenile status using the criteria listed on this website.	https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-US/eb4/SIJ