

Expedited Licensure Process for Refugees, Asylees, and Holders of Special Immigrant Visas

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) and its boards and bureaus protect and serve California consumers through the licensure and regulation of licensees in diverse professions and occupations ranging from accountant to physician, security guard to contractor, cemetery manager to veterinarian, and more.

As of January 1, 2021, individuals in the following categories may have their applications expedited by their profession's DCA board or bureau:

- Refugees pursuant to section 1157 of title 8 of the United States Code.
- Those granted asylum by the secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or the attorney general of the United States pursuant to section 1158 of title 8 of the United States Code.
- Individuals with a special immigrant visa that have been granted a status pursuant to section 1244 of Public Law 110-181, Public Law 109-163, or section 602(b) of title VI of division F of Public Law 111-8.

To be considered for expedited licensure, applicants must provide evidence of their refugee, asylee, or special immigrant visa status when submitting their application package.

Documentation examples include:

- Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record, with an admission class code such as "RE" (Refugee), "AY" (Asylee), or other information designating the person a refugee or asylee.

- Special immigrant visa that includes the classification codes of "SI" or "SQ."
- Permanent Resident Card (Form I-551), commonly known as a "green card," with a category designation indicating that the person was admitted as a refugee or asylee.
- An order from a court of competent jurisdiction or other documentary evidence that provides reasonable assurance that the applicant qualifies for expedited licensure.

Failure to provide documentation may result in a delay in expediting the application review. Please note the expedited licensure process does not mean a license or registration must be issued; rather, it means the process will be expedited.

For more information, contact the profession's licensing board or bureau, email refugee@dca.ca.gov, or visit DCA's expedited licensure webpage. If you need assistance in a language other than English, language assistance services are available at no cost: Call DCA toll-free at (833) 498-2006.

The California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) Refugee Resettlement Program assists eligible refugees, asylees, special immigrant visa holders, and other eligible persons to resettle in California. For more information about the CDSS program, visit www.cdss.ca.gov/refugee-services.