

Deportation

[Deportation](#) occurs when U.S. immigration officials formally remove a noncitizen from the U.S. for violating immigration law. Common immigration law violations may occur when noncitizens:

- Participate in criminal acts
- Pose a threat to public safety
- Violate the terms of their visas
- Attempt to enter the U.S. with no travel documents or forged documents

Types of Removal

Some individuals, such as those who appear near a border or a port of entry without proper travel documents, are subject to the expedited removal process. This type of deportation happens quickly and without the right to any hearings in immigration court.

Noncitizens in other circumstances may go through a longer removal process that occurs through immigration court proceedings. In this situation, the noncitizens may remain in an immigration detention facility until their cases are heard. Then, they appear before an immigration judge, who decides whether they should be deported or not.

If the judge orders the person to be removed from the U.S., their home country must agree to receive them and issue travel documents before physical removal from the country.

Voluntary Departure

If you are facing removal proceedings, you might be able to voluntarily leave the U.S. before your removal proceedings are done. This is called voluntary departure.

Adjustment of Status

You might be able to avoid removal if you qualify for and go through the adjustment of status process, which allows you to become a lawful permanent resident (LPR) or get your green card. For example, you may be able to adjust your status if a family member who is a U.S. citizen or LPR files a petition on your behalf. You also may be able to adjust your status if you qualify for asylum based on a credible fear of persecution in your home country due to your race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.