

Definitions

Refugee – A person who, while abroad, met U.S. criteria for classification as a refugee and underwent all pre-entry processing before arrival in the U.S. Person must have been a victim of prosecution or well-founded fear of prosecution based on religion, nationality, political opinion, race, or membership in a social group. A refugee can apply for permanent residence after one year, citizenship after five years.

Asylee – A person granted the right to permanent safety in the U.S. Person reached the U.S. as a visitor with no prior processing, declared him/herself a refugee based on the above conditions, and made formal application for asylum. After one year, an asylee can apply for permanent residence.
