

# Afghan Family Reunification Pathways

Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

# Agenda

## **Family Reunification Petitions/Requests Filed through Resettlement Agencies**

1. Requests for Immediate Family Member Reunification for Afghans separated during the non-combatant evacuation operations between August 14 – August 31, 2021
2. Priority 3 Family Reunification Affidavit of Relationship Form

## **Family Reunification Petitions/Requests Filed through USCIS**

1. I-730 Follow-to-Join Petition
2. I-130 Form

# NEO Immediate Family Member Reunification

Afghans who were separated from immediate family members during the non-combatant evacuation operation (NEO) between **August 14th – August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**, may submit a request to the Department of State to have their qualifying family members brought to the United States.

## How to submit a request?

1. Online via the Department of State Portal – *TBD*
2. By email to EMM HQ

# NEO Immediate Family Member Reunification

## **Eligibility - U.S. Based Family Member Petitioner (USBFM)**

1. Individual was separated from their immediate family member(s) due to the non-combatant evacuation (NEO)
2. Individual departed Afghanistan between August 14 – August 31, 2021
3. Individual departed from Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA)
4. Individual is a U.S. Citizen, Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR), Afghan Humanitarian Parolee (AHP), or other status and were separated due to the NEO in August.

# NEO Immediate Family Member Reunification

## Eligibility – Overseas Beneficiary

- 1. Has a *qualifying relationship* with the USBFM

### *Qualifying Relationship(s)*

- a. Spouse
- b. Unmarried children of the USBFM who are under 21 years old

# NEO Immediate Family Member Reunification

## Required Documentation

1. U.S. Based Family Member's proof of residency in the United States
2. Copy of official marriage certificate (only required for spouse reunification)
3. **Copy of current passports for immediate family in Afghanistan**
4. Birth Certificate or Tazkera for all unmarried children under the age of 21

# NEO Immediate Family Member Reunification

## How to Submit a Request to EMM

1. Complete the EMM NEO Family Reunification Request Form
2. Email the Request Form and Supporting Documentation to the [EMMAPAProgram@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:EMMAPAProgram@episcopalchurch.org)
3. Email Subject Line: DD-MMM NEO Request

Please be sure to encrypt and/or password protect all documentation containing personally identifiable information (PII).



# NEO Family Reunification for Unaccompanied Minors and Minors Traveling with Non-Parental Relatives

Unaccompanied Afghan Minors and Afghan Minors who traveled with a non-parental relative and were separated from immediate family members during the non-combatant evacuation operation between **August 14th – August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**, are also eligible to submit a request to the Department of State to have their qualifying family members brought to the United States.

## How to submit a request?

1. Online via the Department of State Portal – *TBD*
2. By email to EMM HQ



# NEO Family Reunification for Unaccompanied Minors and Minors Traveling with Non-Parental Relatives

## **Eligibility - U.S. Based Unaccompanied Afghan Minor (UAM) or Afghan Minor Traveling with Non-Parental Relatives**

1. Individual was separated from their immediate family member(s) due to the non-combatant evacuation (NEO)
2. Individual departed Afghanistan between August 14 – August 31, 2021
3. Individual departed from Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA)
4. Individual is a U.S. Citizen, Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR), Afghan Humanitarian Parolee, or other individual separated from their immediate family member(s) due to the NEO.

# NEO Family Reunification for Unaccompanied Minors and Minors Traveling with Non-Parental Relatives

## Eligibility – Overseas Beneficiary

- 1. Has a *qualifying relationship* with the USBFM

### *Qualifying Relationship(s)*

- a. Parents
- b. Siblings (unmarried and under 21 years old)

# NEO Family Reunification for Unaccompanied Minors and Minors Traveling with Non-Parental Relatives

## Required Documentation

1. U.S. Based Family Member's proof of residency in the United States
2. **Copy of current passports for immediate family in Afghanistan**
3. Birth Certificate or Tazkera for all unmarried siblings under the age of 21

# NEO Family Reunification for Unaccompanied Minors and Minors Traveling with Non-Parental Relatives

## How to Submit a Request to EMM

1. Complete the EMM NEO Family Reunification Request Form
2. Email the Request and Supporting Documentation to the [EMMAPAProgram@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:EMMAPAProgram@episcopalchurch.org)
3. Email Subject Line: DD-MMM NEO Request

Please be sure to encrypt and/or password protect all documentation containing personally identifiable information (PII).



# What Happens After a Request is Submitted to EMM?

1. EMM HQ will thoroughly review and vet all requests for family reunification prior to submission to the Department of State.
2. If any additional information is required, or if the request is incomplete, EMM HQ Pre-Arrival Staff will reach out to the affiliate and/or partner that filed the request.
3. Once the packet is complete, EMM HQ will submit the request to the Department of State

# What Happens After a Request is Submitted to the Department of State?

1. The Department of State’s CARE Team will thoroughly vet requests and assign the case to the CARE case management team.
2. The assigned CARE case manager will contact the overseas family members directly to coordinate further processing.

EMM does not have any involvement in the further processing stages once a request is submitted to the Department of State. The CARE team will communicate directly with the overseas family members.

# Case Assurance and Arrival to the U.S.

1. After completing the vetting processing and all necessary security checks, once a case is approved for resettlement to the United States, the case will be allocated to a Resettlement Agency operating in the location of the U.S. Based Family Member petitioner.
2. Once the case is assured by a domestic resettlement agency, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will coordinate travel to the United States.
3. Cases reunified through this pathway will arrive through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and provided with initial Reception & Placement (R&P) services at their final destination through a local resettlement agency.

# NEO Family Reunification Summary

U.S. Based Family Member	Qualifying Family Members	Notes
Afghan Refugee	Spouses and/or unmarried children under 21	USBFM must have departed Afghanistan from HKAI Airport between Aug 14-31, 2021, and have been separated from their immediate family members due to the non-combatant evacuation operation.
Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holder	Spouses and/or unmarried children under 21	
Afghan Humanitarian Parolee	Spouses and/or unmarried children under 21	
Unaccompanied Afghan Minor	Parents and/or unmarried siblings under 21	
Afghan Minor resettled with non-parental relative	Parents and/or unmarried siblings under 21	



# P-3 Family Reunification

The P-3 Family Reunification Program allows U.S. Based Family Members to refer their immediate family members to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program to join them in the United States.

Priority 3 (P-3) referrals to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program are made when a U.S. Based Family Member files a P-3 Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) form [DS-7656] on behalf of their relative(s) with a local Resettlement Agency.

# P-3 Family Reunification

## Eligibility – U.S. Based Family Member

1. Individual must be at least 18 years old at the time of filing
2. Have been admitted to the United States as a refugee for fewer than five years or granted asylum within last 5 years.
  - Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holders (SIVs) are also eligible to file a P-3 AOR within 5 years of arriving to the United States.
3. Provide proof of lawful status in the United States

# P-3 Family Reunification

## Eligibility – Overseas Beneficiary

1. Have a qualifying relationship with the USBFM
2. Afghan beneficiaries must be located outside of their country of origin
3. Provide UNHCR registration or country of asylum registration

# P-3 Family Reunification

## Qualifying Relationship(s)

At least one member on the AOR must serve as the Qualifying Family Member (QFM) and must have a qualifying relationship with the USBFM. Qualifying Relationship(s) include; parents, spouses and unmarried children under 21 years old.

## Derivatives

In addition to the QFM, derivatives of the QFM may be added as Type B derivatives. These include the spouse, parent(s) and/or unmarried children under 21 years old of the QFM.

## Type C Add-Ons

On a case-by-case basis, additional family members may be added on the AOR if they meet the requirements of a Type C Add-on.

# P-3 Family Reunification

## How to submit a petition to EMM?

A U.S. Based Family Member must file a P-3 Affidavit of Relationship(AOR) with a local resettlement agency on behalf of their qualifying family members.

EMM affiliate staff work with the USBFM to submit the P-3 AOR form and supporting documentation via the IRIS Database to EMM HQ for vetting and submission to the Refugee Processing Center (RPC).

# Case Assurance and Arrival to the U.S.

1. After completing the vetting processing and all necessary security checks, once a case is approved for resettlement to the United States, the case will be allocated to a Resettlement Agency operating in the location of the U.S. Based Family Member petitioner.
2. Once the case is assured by a domestic resettlement agency, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) will coordinate travel to the United States.
3. Cases reunified through this pathway will arrive through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and provided with initial Reception & Placement (R&P) services at their final destination through a local resettlement agency.

# P-3 Family Reunification Summary

<b>U.S. Based Family Member</b>	<b>Qualifying Family Members</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Refugee	Spouses, parents and/or unmarried children under 21	USBFM entered the U.S. within the last 5-years
Asylee	Spouses, parents and/or unmarried children under 21	USBFM granted asylum within the last 5-years
Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holder	Spouses, parents and/or unmarried children under 21	Entry to the U.S. within the last 5-years. Overseas beneficiaries must be outside of Afghanistan.

# I-730 Follow-to-Join Petition

An individual petitioner who was granted asylum in the United States as a principal asylee or was resettlement as a principal refugee is eligible to file a form I-730 within the first two years of their entry to the United States on behalf of their **spouse and/or unmarried children under 21 years old**.

Special Immigrant Visa Holders (SIVs) are not eligible to file I-730s.



# I-730 Follow-to-Join Petition

## How to submit a petition?

The I-730 form is submitted to USCIS and does not require a local resettlement agency to assist in the filing.

Once approved for resettlement to the United States, refugee beneficiaries will arrive through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program and the International Organization for Migration will arrange their travel to the United States.

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-730>



# I-730 Petition Summary

U.S. Based Family Member	Qualifying Family Members	Notes
Principal Applicant Refugee	Spouses and/or unmarried children under 21	USBFM entered the U.S. within the last 2-years
Principal Applicant Asylee	Spouses and/or unmarried children under 21	USBFM granted asylum within the last 2-years

# I-130 Petition

Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) and U.S. Citizens are eligible to file an I-130 petition on behalf of qualifying family members.

Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Holders (SIVs) are permanent residents and are eligible to file an I-130.

# I-130 Petition

## Qualifying Relationships

If the U.S. Based Family Member is a **Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR)**

- They may file a petition on behalf of their spouses and unmarried children under the age of 21.

If the U.S. Based Family Member is a **U.S. Citizen**

- They may file a petition on behalf of their spouses, children regardless of age or marital status, siblings and parents.

# I-130 Petition

## How to submit a petition?

The I-130 form is submitted to USCIS and does not require a local resettlement agency to assist in the filing.

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-130>

# I-I30 Petition Summary

<b>U.S. Based Family Member</b>	<b>Qualifying Family Members</b>
Lawful Permanent Resident	Spouses and/or unmarried children under 21
U.S. Citizen	Spouses, children, parents and siblings

Thank you!

Questions?

[EMMAPAProgram@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:EMMAPAProgram@episcopalchurch.org)



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