



Workshop 2: Immigration Pathways, Legal Literacy, and Refugee Resettlement

Resources: *a practical information for Burmese/Myanmar communities in the United States*

Our Story, Our Faith: Burma Christian Diaspora in Indianapolis. 8/8/2026

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This workshop provides general legal information – not legal advice

By the end of this session, you will:

- ▶ understand major U.S. immigration pathways
- ▶ recognize common immigration mistakes
- ▶ learn basic legal rights in the U.S.
- ▶ know where to find trustworthy help
- ▶ understand refugee and community resources

Important Disclaimer!

This workshop is:

- ✓ General legal education

This workshop is NOT:

- ✗ Individual legal advice
- ✗ Case assessment
- ✗ Promise of immigration benefits

Every immigration history matters:

- ▶ Entry history
- ▶ Criminal history
- ▶ Prior filings
- ▶ Family relationship
- ▶ Immigration violations

Immigration System Overview

Two Main Categories

NONIMMIGRANT [Temporary] vs. IMMIGRANT [Permanent residence]

Key question: “did you intend to immigrate permanently?”

- ▶ Some categories allow: → Dual Intent
- ▶ Some categories are: → Non-Dual Intent

Before Applying: What Approvals May Be Required?

USCIS:

Petitions / immigration approvals

DOL:

Department of Labor

SEVIS:

Student and exchange tracking system

Visual:

Embassy ← USCIS ← DOL ← Applicant

Immigration Pathways

Main pathways:

1. Family-Based (both imm & nonimm)
2. Employment-Based
3. Humanitarian
4. Diversity Visa
5. Special categories

Family-Based Immigration

Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens

- Spouses and children under 21
- Parents (if petitioner is 21+)

Preference categories (“quota”)

- F1: Unmarried sons & daughters of USC (21 and +)
- F2A: Spouses and children of **LPR**
- F2B: Unmarried sons & daughters of **LPR**
- F3: Married sons & daughters of USC
- F4: Siblings of adult USC (petitioner is 21+)

Bulletin date: June 2026.

Family-Sponsored	All Chargeability Areas Except Those Listed	CHINA-mainland born	INDIA	MEXICO	PHILIPPINES
F1	01OCT18	01OCT18	01OCT18	01OCT08	22APR15
F2A	C	C	C	C	C
F2B	22MAR18	22MAR18	22MAR18	15MAY10	01OCT13
F3	08DEC12	08DEC12	08DEC12	15JUL01	08AUG06
F4	22DEC09	22DEC09	15DEC06	30APR01	22MAR08

- ▶ <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-bulletin.html>

Special Family Option - Visa

- ▶ K-1
Fiancé(e)
- ▶ K-3
Spouse waiting for approval
- ▶ Marriage itself does NOT automatically create status.

Humanitarian Relief

- ▶ Refugees
- ▶ Asylum/asylees
- ▶ Parole/parolees
- ▶ TPS
- ▶ Cancellation of Removal
- ▶ Convention Against Torture
- ▶ Withholding of Removal
- ▶ Country Specific Programs

KEY DISTINCTION:

- ▶ Refugees → outside of U.S. and granted status before entering
- ▶ Asylum seekers → inside the U.S. or at port of entry

Special Humanitarian Nonimmigrant

- ▶ U Visa

Victims of certain
qualifying crimes

- ▶ T Visa

Victims of trafficking

- ▶ TPS

Temporary Protected
Status

- ▶ Humanitarian Parole

- ▶ VAWA

Important:

**Temporary status ≠ Green
card**

Burma/Myanmar Update (current as of June 2026 only)

- ▶ Important:
Policies are changing rapidly.
- ▶ Current topics affecting Burmese communities:
 - Litigation affecting TPS for Burma
 - Changes in humanitarian policies
 - Processing changes and executive actions
- ▶ Always confirm current rules before filing.

Do NOT promise outcomes based on headlines.

Filing Application: “it’s just filling up forms...” right?

NO!!

- ▶ Forms create permanent records.
- ▶ You affirm to USCIS that what you stating is true and that you meet the requirements set out in the immigration law.
- ▶ Common Mistakes
 - Guessing
 - Copying friends
 - Omitting information
 - Signing without reading

High-risk Questions

Examples:

- ▶ Have you EVER been arrested?
- ▶ Have you EVER entered without inspection (EWI)?
- ▶ Have you EVER been out of legal status?
- ▶ Have you EVER claimed citizenship?
- ▶ Received government benefits?
- ▶ Prior marriages?

Common Immigration Consequences

Potential outcomes:

- ▶ 5-year bar
- ▶ 10-year bar
- ▶ Permanent bar
- ▶ Denial
- ▶ Removal proceeding
- ▶ Mandatory detention: Not eligible for bond

NOTE: One wrong answer can follow someone for years.

Legal Literacy: Know Your Rights

Everyone in the U.S. has certain legal protections.

Examples:

- ▶ Right to remain silent
- ▶ Right to attorney (not government-paid in immigration)
- ▶ Right to due process
- ▶ Right to decline consent searches in some situations

Detained or Free to Go?

Ask:

“Am I free to leave?”

Why it matters:

- ▶ Custody changes legal protections. May file habeas petition 180 days after detain.

If detained:

Remain calm

Do not sign blindly



Miranda Rights vs. Immigration

Important distinction:

- ▶ Miranda ≠ automatic protection in all immigration contexts.

Questions:

- ▶ Criminal?
- ▶ Administrative?
- ▶ Custodial questioning?

ICE Preparedness for Churches & Businesses

Planning topics:

- ▶ Public vs Private spaces
- ▶ Authorized personnel
- ▶ Written response policies
- ▶ Staff training
- ▶ Visitor procedures
- ▶ Document handling

Sample Preparedness Checklist

- ▶ Reception protocol
- ▶ Manager contacts
- ▶ Signage
- ▶ Staff scripts
- ▶ Emergency contacts
- ▶ Document retention
- ▶ Legal contacts

Judicial Warrant vs Immigration Warrant

THE JUDICIAL WARRANT IS INVALID IF YOUR NAME OR THE ADDRESS IS WRONG. YOU CAN EXERCISE YOUR RIGHTS EXPLAINED ON THIS FLYER.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
for the _____

United States of America
v. _____
Defendant

Case No. _____

ARREST WARRANT

To: Any authorized law enforcement officer

YOU ARE COMMANDED to arrest and bring before a United States magistrate judge without unnecessary delay (name of person to be arrested) who is accused of an offense or violation based on the following document filed with the court:

☐ Indictment ☐ Superseding Indictment ☐ Information ☐ Superseding Information ☐ Complaint
☐ Probation Violation Petition ☐ Supervised Release Violation Petition ☐ Violation Notice ☐ Order of the Court

This offense is briefly described as follows:

Date: _____
City and state: _____

Issuing officer's signature _____
Printed name and title _____

Return

This warrant was received on (date) _____, and the person was arrested on (date) _____ at (city and state) _____.

Date: _____
Arresting officer's signature _____
Printed name and title _____

THIS IS A SEARCH WARRANT SIGNED BY A JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE.

WITHOUT THIS DOCUMENT, IMMIGRATION OFFICERS CANNOT LAWFULLY ENTER YOUR HOME AND OTHER PRIVATE SPACES OR SEARCH YOUR BODY, YOUR CAR, OR PRIVATE PROPERTY.

IT MUST HAVE A SIGNATURE FROM A JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE.

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

Warrant of Removal/Deportation

File No: _____
Date: _____

To any officer of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service:

(Full name of alien) _____
who entered the United States at _____ (Place of entry) on _____ (Date of entry)

is subject to removal/deportation from the United States, based upon a final order by:

☐ an immigration judge in exclusion, deportation, or removal proceedings
☐ a district director or a district director's designated official
☐ the Board of Immigration Appeals
☐ a United States District or Magistrate Court Judge

and pursuant to the following provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act:
Section 241(a)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Act), as amended.

I, the undersigned officer of the United States, by virtue of the power and authority vested in the Attorney General under the laws of the United States and by his or her direction, command you to take into custody and remove from the United States the above-named alien, pursuant to law, at the expense of the apprehension. "Salaries and Expenses Immigration and Naturalization Service 2002," including the expense of an attendant if necessary.

(Signature of INS Officer)

(Print Name of INS Officer)

(Date and Office Location)

THIS IS A WARRANT OF REMOVAL FROM AN IMMIGRATION OFFICER. THIS IS NOT A SEARCH WARRANT.

THIS ORDER DOES NOT ALLOW ICE TO LAWFULLY SEARCH YOUR HOUSE, CAR, BODY, OR PRIVATE PROPERTY.

BUT WITH THIS WARRANT, ICE CAN STILL ARREST YOU IN PUBLIC PLACES LIKE PARKING LOTS, SIDEWALKS, OR OUTSIDE YOUR HOME.

I-200

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY Warrant for Arrest of Alien

File No. _____

Date: _____

To: Any immigration officer authorized pursuant to sections 236 and 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and part 287 of title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, to serve warrants of arrest for immigration violations

I have determined that there is probable cause to believe that _____ is removable from the United States. This determination is based upon:

- ☐ the execution of a charging document to initiate removal proceedings against the subject;
- ☐ the pendency of ongoing removal proceedings against the subject;
- ☐ the failure to establish admissibility subsequent to deferred inspection;
- ☐ biometric confirmation of the subject's identity and a records check of federal databases that affirmatively indicate, by themselves or in addition to other reliable information, that the subject either lacks immigration status or notwithstanding such status is removable under U.S. immigration law; and/or
- ☐ statements made voluntarily by the subject to an immigration officer and/or other reliable evidence that affirmatively indicate the subject either lacks immigration status or notwithstanding such status is removable under U.S. immigration law.

YOU ARE COMMANDED to arrest and take into custody for removal proceedings under the Immigration and Nationality Act, the above-named alien.

(Signature of Authorized Immigration Officer)

(Printed Name and Title of Authorized Immigration Officer)

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that the Warrant for Arrest of Alien was served by me at _____
(Location)

on _____ on _____, and the contents of this
(Name of Alien) (Date of Service)

notice were read to him or her in the _____ language.
(Language)

Name and Signature of Officer

Name or Number of Interpreter (if applicable)

Family Preparedness

- ▶ Power of Attorney
- ▶ Guardianship planning
- ▶ Emergency contact packet
 - ▶ lawyers, pastors, trusted adults
- ▶ Children's record
- ▶ Copies of IDs, SS, important papers
- ▶ Medication lists
- ▶ Who can pick up your child?

Who Can Help and How to Find Them?

- ▶ Licensed immigration attorneys (AILA)
- ▶ DOJ Accredited Representatives (Directory)
- ▶ State bar Associations
- ▶ Legal Clinics
- ▶ NEVER solely rely on social media!
- ▶ Questions to ask:
 - ▶ License?
 - ▶ Experience?
 - ▶ Written agreement?

Danger of Notarios

- ▶ Red flags:
 - ▶ Guarantees
 - ▶ Blank signatures
 - ▶ Cash only
 - ▶ No written contract
 - ▶ Fast result promises

Notario are NOT attorneys in the U.S. [only licensed or DOJ accredited can represent clients]

Takeaways and Questions

Remember:

- ▶ Understand your pathway
- ▶ Read before signing
- ▶ Know your rights
- ▶ Prepare your family
- ▶ Use licensed help

Questions?