

Glossary

Alien

A person who is not a citizen or national of the United States.

Amerasian

A person fathered abroad by U.S. servicemen to women of Asian nationalities.

Asylee

An immigrant who flees his or her country in fear of persecution or with a well-founded fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a social group and who is already present in the United States at the time he/she obtained asylum. One seeks asylum from the United States Citizenship and Information Services (USCIS).

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The CDC of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS), is responsible for ensuring that immigrants entering the U.S. do not pose a threat to the public health. CDC monitors the overseas medical screening of immigrants, inspects the medical records of immigrants at U.S. ports of entry, and notifies state health departments of each arriving refugee as well as some categories of other immigrants.



Civil Surgeon

A physician approved by the United States Citizenship and Information Services (USCIS) to conduct the medical examination of applicants seeking to adjust their immigration status.

Class A Condition

An excludable medical condition (e.g., infectious tuberculosis, HIV infection, physical or mental disorder that may pose a threat, drug abuse or addiction) diagnosed in a refugee during the overseas medical examination. Class A conditions require approved waivers for United States entry and require immediate follow-up upon arrival by appropriate medical personnel.

Class B Condition

A physical or mental abnormality, disease, or disability serious in degree or permanent in nature amounting to a substantial departure from normal well-being diagnosed during the overseas medical examination. Class B designations indicate a need for follow-up soon after arrival in the United States by appropriate medical personnel.

Division of Global Migration and Quarantine, (DGMQ/CDC)

The CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine is committed to reducing morbidity and mortality due to infectious diseases among immigrants, refugees, international travelers, and other mobile populations that cross international borders. In addition, the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine is committed to promoting border health and preventing the introduction of infectious agents into the United States.

DS-2053

Department of State form, *Medical Examination for Immigrant or Refugee Applicant*. This form is required for immigration. It is the summary of three worksheets, plus it contains the results of the required laboratory tests for any applicant (immigrant and refugee) older than 14 years of age. This form is in the immigrants' and refugees' IOM Bag.

Health Assessment

The comprehensive assessment of newly arrived refugees, including:

- Follow-up of conditions identified overseas
- Evaluation and diagnostic services to determine health status and identify health problems
- Referral for follow-up of identified health problems
- Education/orientation to local healthcare services
- Linkage with primary healthcare services

I-693

USCIS form called the Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record. This is the form used to document the medical aspects of the Adjustment of Status application.

I-94

USCIS document that records each alien's arrival and departure from the United States. It identifies the period of time for which the alien is admitted and the alien's immigrant status.

Immigrant

A person who is not a U.S. citizen or national who enters the United States, as an actual or prospective permanent resident, with the intent to remain for an indefinite period of time.

Immigration Status

The legal or illegal character or condition under which an immigrant has entered the United States. All refugees are legal immigrants.

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people. IOM arranges refugee travel and travel loans to refugees migrating to the United States. In some locations, provides cultural orientation briefings and/or medical screenings.

IOM Bag

The large white bag issued to refugees at the time of travel in order to carry medical and other documents, including the results of the overseas medical exam, immunizations records, and overseas chest X-rays.

Internally Displaced Persons

Those who are internally displaced in various regions (usually because of war), those whose nationality is undetermined, or those who do not have an established bond with any country after a political reorganization.

Joint Voluntary Agency (JVA)

On behalf of the 10 U.S. voluntary agencies, prepares case files and documentation for refugees applying for U.S. resettlement, researches family reunion documentation, responds to case inquiries from the U.S., and serves as liaison with Volags and IOM.

Migrant

A “migrant worker” is generally understood to be an economic migrant who has been “engaged in a remunerated activity in a state of which he or she is not a national.” The term also encompasses undocumented migrants. The term “migrant” should be understood to include cases where the decision to migrate has been taken freely, for “personal convenience,” without any external compelling factors such as ethnic or civil strife or any environmental destruction.

Non-Immigrant

A person who can be classified under one or more of the following: undocumented individual, tourist, visitor on business, or foreign/international student.

Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)

Advises the U.S. Assistant Secretary for Children and Families and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policies and programs regarding refugee resettlement, immigration, and repatriation matters. ORR plans, develops, and directs implementation of a comprehensive program for domestic refugee and entrant resettlement assistance. ORR also provides direction and technical guidance to the nationwide administration of resettlement and repatriation programs.

Overseas Medical Exam (see Visa Medical Examination)**Parolee**

A foreign-born person, or alien, who, appearing to be inadmissible to the inspecting USCIS officer, is allowed to enter the United States under emergency (humanitarian) conditions or when that individual’s entry is determined to be in the public interest.

Primary Refugee

A refugee who is residing in the state listed as the initial point of destination with the USCIS. Refugees are free to move from state to state, but sponsors, Volags, and state health departments are designed to serve only newly arrived primary refugees to the state.

Quarantine Station

The station at a major port of entry which is charged with preventing the importation and spread of communicable disease into the United States. Quarantine officers inspect arriving aliens and their medical documents and forward copies of documents to appropriate health authorities in the resettlement location. Refugee arrivals are limited to the eight ports of entry where CDC has staff (New York City, Chicago, Miami, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Atlanta, Seattle, and Newark).



Reception and Placement (R&P)

The initial resettlement process and period (generally 30 days) during which a Volag or other sponsor under an agreement with the United States Department of State is responsible for assisting the refugee.

Refugee

A foreign-born resident who is not a United States citizen and who cannot return to his or her country of origin or last residence because of persecution or the well-founded fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion, as determined by the State Department or United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). A refugee receives this status *prior* to entering the United States. (For the purposes of the MDH Refugee Health Program, “refugee” encompasses asylees as well as parolees.)

Refugee Medical Assistance

Available as cash or medical assistance to needy refugees who arrive in the U.S. with no financial resources and are not eligible for other assistance programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or Medicaid. This refugee assistance, if needed, is paid entirely from federal funds and is available only for a limited number of months following arrival in the U.S.

Secondary Refugee

A refugee who initially settles in one state and subsequently moves to another, outside the jurisdiction of the agency that was responsible for his or her initial resettlement.

Sponsor

A person who signs an affidavit of support for a person applying to emigrate to the United States as a resident. A sponsor must be a U.S. citizen, national, or legal permanent resident, who is 18 years of age or older, has been domiciled in the United States, and meets certain income/assets requirements.

Undocumented Immigrant

A person who is not a U.S. citizen or national, who has entered the United States (or has remained in the United States) without proper documentation and who does not have legal status for immigration purposes.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

With host country authorization, provides the following services (directly or indirectly) in refugee camps: protection, assistance, medical services, registration of camp population, and referral for possible resettlement.

United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS)

Formerly known as the INS, an agency within the Department of Homeland Security that oversees the implementation of federal immigration and naturalization laws, including the immigration, exclusion, deportation, expulsion, or removal of immigrants.

Victim of Trafficking

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. Victims of human trafficking are trafficked across international borders and subjected to force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of sexual exploitation of forced labor. Victims are young children, teenagers, men, and women.

- **Sex trafficking** – the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person is forced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years
- **Labor trafficking** – the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery

In both forms, the victim is an unwilling participant due to force, fraud, or coercion.

Visa Medical Examination or Overseas Medical Examination

The physical and mental examination the immigrants and refugees coming to the United States complete as part of the visa application process. The purpose of the visa medical examination is to identify the presence or absence of certain disorders that could result in exclusion from the United States under provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Volunteer Resettlement Agency (Volag)

A national or local non-profit voluntary agency. Volags are assigned responsibility for initial refugee resettlement processing under a contract with the Department of State. The national Volag assigns continuing responsibility for the refugee to a local affiliated Volag or sponsor. During the initial resettlement process, the Volag or sponsor is responsible for assisting the refugee in seeking healthcare, employment, and/or schooling and housing.