



*Community FAQ**

Process for Applying for Humanitarian Parole Under the Family Reunification Task Force Process September 2022 (updated May 2024)

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s [Family Reunification Task Force](#) has established a parole process for families who were separated at the U.S.-Mexico border between January 20, 2017 and January 20, 2021 as a result of the Trump administration's Zero-Tolerance Policy and other similar Trump administration practices. This process has been established through negotiations in a lawsuit called [Ms. L. v. ICE](#), which has now reached a [settlement](#).

Thanks to this parole process, the separated parent and child(ren) and qualifying family members have different parole options depending on their current location. Parents and children who were deported as a result of the Zero-Tolerance Policy can benefit from humanitarian parole. Parents, children, and other family members who were not deported as a result of the policy and currently live in the United States may benefit from parole-in-place. Some family members of formerly separated persons who remain outside of the United States now also qualify to apply for humanitarian parole through the Family Reunification Task Force process. This Community FAQ seeks to educate these families about the application process for humanitarian parole for family members of separated persons who remain outside the United States.

What is humanitarian parole?

Humanitarian parole is a discretionary process that, if approved, grants temporary permission to enter and remain in the United States that United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) can decide to give to noncitizens on a case-by-case basis, where there is urgent humanitarian reason or significant public benefit.

Who is eligible for humanitarian parole?

Under the Family Reunification Task Force process, humanitarian parole is available to people who were separated at the United States-Mexico border by immigration authorities between January 20, 2017 and January 20, 2021 under Trump's Zero-Tolerance and related family separation policies. In addition to parents/guardians and children who were separated, additional family members may be eligible to apply for humanitarian parole. *Ms. L.* class members and their children are permitted to apply for humanitarian parole for any family member who demonstrates 1) shared immediate household with the separated parent and/or separated child, 2) familial relationship with the separated parent and/or separated child, and 3) an urgent humanitarian reason, including being necessary to reunification.

Relatives of *Ms. L.* class members who do not share a household with either the separated parent or the separated child but wish to apply for parole must have one of the following familial relationships:

- A spouse (including common law spouse) of a separated parent/legal guardian or separated child;
- An unmarried child under the age of 21 of a separated parent/legal guardian or separated child;
- A separated child's biological sibling(s) who is unmarried and under the age of 21;
- A separated child's non-separated parent, stepparent, or legal guardian;
- A separated parent or legal guardian's parent who is the primary caregiver for:
 - A minor child of the separated parent/legal guardian; or
 - A separated child;
- Or a separated child's stepparent's biological unmarried children under the age of 21.

Note that these additional family members must also show an urgent humanitarian reason for parole.

Example: A father and daughter were separated at the border and were later released from detention into the interior of the United States. The father's spouse and two other children wish to reunite with him and his daughter in the United States. The spouse and two children would be eligible to apply for humanitarian parole.

How long does humanitarian parole last and is it renewable?

Humanitarian parole granted by the DHS Family Reunification Task Force will last for three years. Family members who are in the United States can request additional periods of parole with USCIS *before* the initial 3-year parole period expires but must show a continued need. It is possible that a future presidential administration could make it harder for these families to renew their parole.

What are some benefits of being granted humanitarian parole?

A grant of humanitarian parole allows the recipients to enter and remain in the United States legally, where they will generally be protected from deportation for three years. Humanitarian parole recipients will be eligible for a work permit once they have entered the United States and do not have to pay an application fee. If granted, the work permit lasts for three years or as long as the parole is valid. Depending on the state they live in, people granted humanitarian parole may be eligible for public benefits like cash assistance programs. If a person is eligible to be the beneficiary of a petition to immigrate through certain U.S. citizen family members (called an I-130), getting humanitarian parole may let that person apply for a green card without leaving the country. We encourage families to consult with an immigration lawyer before going through the family petition process. Importantly, however, humanitarian parole does not lead to a green card by itself.

What are some risks of applying for humanitarian parole?

Applying for humanitarian parole under the DHS Family Reunification Task Force requires the applicant to give sensitive information to the government. Humanitarian parole applicants will

share their home address, fingerprints, photograph, and passport with DHS. USCIS may choose to deny an application for humanitarian parole. If USCIS chooses to grant the application for humanitarian parole, it is still possible (though unlikely) that the individual who was granted parole could be held in a United States immigration detention facility upon traveling to the United States. Although the Biden administration has pledged to reunite separated families and keep them together, it is important to keep in mind that a different presidential administration could change course.

What are the requirements for applying for humanitarian parole?

The specific requirements for applying for humanitarian parole differ depending on which family member is applying for the benefit. Generally, it is easier for a separated parent or child to meet the requirements than it is for other family members, as reflected by the below color-coded chart.

<i>Application Requirements For Humanitarian Parole</i>	Separated parent/guardian and child	Additional family members traveling with separated parent or child	Additional family members traveling without separated parent or child
<i>Identification</i>	Government-issued photo identification that is valid and unexpired	Government-issued photo identification that is valid and unexpired	Government-issued photo identification that is valid and unexpired
<i>Proving relationship</i>	No evidence of relationship required	Evidence showing family relationship with separated family members (e.g., birth certificate, marriage certificate)	Evidence showing family relationship with separated family members (e.g., birth certificate, marriage certificate)
<i>Proving cohabitation (living together)</i>	No evidence of living together required	No evidence of living together required for minor children under 18 and spouses. Evidence of living together is required for all other family members	No evidence of living together required

When must additional family members file their humanitarian applications relative to each other?

Families should submit all family members’ applications for humanitarian parole at the same time unless there are exceptional circumstances. However, if family members in the United States are

applying for parole-in-place under the DHS Family Reunification Task Force, they do not have to file their applications at the same time as applications for humanitarian parole.

Is there a fee to apply for humanitarian parole?

No, there is no fee to apply for humanitarian parole under the Family Reunification Task Force Process.

How do I apply for humanitarian parole?

The process starts with registering on [together.gov](https://together.dhs.gov). Only one registration is needed per family and should include all family members who were separated at the border. After registration, the government will confirm whether the family qualifies for support from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in preparing and submitting the family's parole applications. If IOM is not able to provide support, families can [apply](#) for humanitarian parole with the help of a lawyer. People who have an immigration lawyer should talk with their lawyer about applying for humanitarian parole.

Is humanitarian parole the same thing as asylum?

No, humanitarian parole is not the same thing as asylum. United States immigration law allows persons fleeing persecution who arrive at our borders, or are already in the United States, to seek asylum protection. Asylum provides a pathway to U.S. citizenship whereas humanitarian parole is temporary and does not provide a pathway to U.S. citizenship. A person who has been granted humanitarian parole and is in the United States may, if eligible, apply for asylum or related relief as well as other immigration benefits. The *Ms. L. v. ICE* [settlement](#) provides a pathway for separated families to apply for asylum.