



March 21, 2024

PA-2024-05

Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Clarifying Expedite Requests

Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is updating policy guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) to clarify how USCIS considers expedite requests related to government interests and requests related to emergencies and urgent humanitarian situations. This update also clarifies how to make an expedite request and explains how USCIS processes expedite requests.

Background

Immigration benefit requestors may request that USCIS expedite the adjudication of their application, petition, request, appeal, or motion. USCIS considers all expedite requests on a case-by-case basis and generally requires documentation to support such requests. The decision to expedite is within the sole discretion of USCIS. This update, contained in Volume 1 of the Policy Manual, is effective immediately. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance.

Policy Highlights

- Clarifies government interests-based requests, including that when an expedite request is made by a federal government agency or department, USCIS generally defers to that agency or department's assessment.
- Explains that USCIS may expedite adjudication of an Application for Travel Document ([Form I-131](#)) when an applicant demonstrates a pressing or critical need to leave the United States, whether the need to travel relates to a planned or unplanned event.
- Clarifies when USCIS may consider an expedite request based on clear USCIS error.
- Explains how to make an expedite request and clarifies how USCIS processes expedite requests.

Summary of Changes

Affected Section: Volume 1 > Part A > Chapter 5, Expedite Requests

- Revises chapter throughout, including adding new section and subsection headings, revising existing content, and adding new content.

USCIS may also make other minor technical, stylistic, and conforming changes consistent with this update.

Citation

Volume 1: General Policies and Procedures, Part A, Public Services, Chapter 5, Expedite Requests [[1 USCIS-PM A.5](#)].