

## Immigration Updates: November, 2025

The month of November brought about significant changes to existing immigration benefit programs and submission practices, as well as laid the groundwork for changes to be expected in the first quarter of 2026. This newsletter provides deeper information regarding the changes that have already occurred, and forecasts what may be on the coming horizon.

### Implemented Changes:

- **Deferred Action and Work Permits Now Possible Again for People with Special Immigrant Juvenile Status**
  - **What happened:** On November 19, 2025, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York [issued a ruling](#) in favor of plaintiffs who were challenging the government’s decision to end the 2022 deferred action policy for special immigrant juveniles.
  - **What does that mean?** Earlier this year, the government had stopped granted “deferred action” and work permits to people who had been granted special immigrant juvenile status (SIJS). That government decision has now been reversed, meaning that people who were granted special immigrant juvenile status can be considered for deferred action and work permits again.
  - **More context:** Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) is a type of immigration protection for people under the age of 21 who are unmarried who have been victims of “abuse, abandonment, or neglect” from at least one of their parents. The process requires a state juvenile court to first decide that the minor is eligible for the program, and then for USCIS to approve them. Once they are approved for SIJS, though, they become eligible for permanent residency later on.
- **2025 Naturalization Civics Test Updated**
  - **What happened:** As of October 20, 2025, USCIS implemented the new version of the [civics test](#) for applicants who file Form N-400 on or after that date.
  - **More specific details:** The number of civics questions in the question bank will increase from 100 to 128. Applicants will now be asked 20 questions (instead of 10). To pass, applicants must answer at least 12 questions correctly (instead of 6).
- **U.S. Government Signs Agreement with Ecuador to Hold Asylum Seekers Outside of the United States While They Await Decision on Their Case**
  - **What happened:** On November 17, the Department of Homeland Security published an agreement between the United States and Ecuador relating to the “transfer” and holding of “third-country nationals.” This means certain people detained in the U.S. who are seeking asylum may be sent to Ecuador while their case plays out. [The agreement is available online.](#)

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### TPS Related Changes

- **TPS Designation for South Sudan Ended – Work Permits Valid Only Through 01/5/2026**
  - **What happened:** On November 6, Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem, terminated the designation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for South Sudan. Citing no specific evidence, Secretary Noem declared that South Sudan’s country conditions have improved enough to demonstrate that the country no longer needs a TPS protections. This, despite the United Nations warning that South Sudan is slipping back into all-out conflict.
  - **What does this mean?** If you have TPS from South Sudan, your TPS protection – and work permits based on that – end on January 5, 2026.
  - **More specific details:** If you are from South Sudan and you have a work permit with category A12 or C19 and your card’s expiration date shows a date of either November 3, 2025; May 3, 2025; or November 3, 2023, then your work permit will not be valid after January 5, 2026. Companies using the “SAVE” program to check work permits will be notified of the expiration.
  - **Where can you learn more:** Always be sure to check the USCIS website for TPS for the most current updates:
  - [Temporary Protected Status Designated Country: South Sudan | USCIS](#)
- **TPS Designation for Burma (Myanmar) Ending – Work Permits Only Valid Through January 26, 2026**
  - **What happened:** On November 24, 2025, Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem, announced that Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Burma will be ending in sixty days. This means that TPS for Burma will end on January 26, 2026.
  - **Work Permits:** Work permits under category A-12 or C-19 for individuals with TPS from Burma are extended through January 26, 2026. This means that if you are a TPS beneficiary from Burma with a work permit for categories A-12 or C-19 that has a printed expiration date of 11/25/2025, 05/25/2024, or 11/25/2022 - your work permit is now valid through January 26, 2026, when it will end.
  - [You can read the alert here.](#)
- **TPS for Haiti Ended (Again) - Protection Will End February 3, 2026**
  - Although thwarted the first time, Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem, has ordered the end of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for nationals of Haiti. This announcement, made on November 26, 2025, is still developing, but the announcement does indicate that protection from deportation for nationals of Haiti will only remain through February 3, 2026.
  - [You can read the alert on the USCIS website here.](#)

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### Pricing and Payment Changes

- **USCIS Announces New 2026 Pricing for Certain Applications**
  - **What happened:** On November 20, USCIS announced the new fees they will be charging for certain applications starting on January 1. The application types include the annual asylum fee, certain kinds of work permits, certain kinds of parole requests, as well as applications for temporary protected status.
  - **Where can I see the new fees?** The new fees are published online at: [USCIS Announces FY 2026 Inflation Increase for Certain Immigration-Related Fees | USCIS](#)
- **Mandatory Electronic Payments for USCIS Filings**
  - **What happened:** As of October 29, 2025, USCIS required [electronic payments](#) for all applications, petitions, and requests. USCIS will no longer accept paper-based payments like money orders, cashier's checks, etc.
  - **More specific details:** We've found that using Form [G-1650](#) (Authorization for ACH Transactions) has been more reliable than Form [G-1450](#) (Credit Card Payment Authorization). Credit card payments have led to a higher rate of rejections from USCIS, often due to insufficient funds or banks flagging the transactions as potentially fraudulent. Whenever possible, we recommend using ACH transactions to avoid delays or complications in your case processing.
- **ASAP v. USCIS Annual Asylum Fees**
  - **What happened:** On October 30, 2025, the judge in [ASAP](#) members' lawsuit ruled that no asylum seekers are currently required to pay the annual asylum fee. However, this pause is temporary, and if your asylum application has been pending for more than 1 year you may still be required to pay.
  - **More specific details:** Read the fee updates [page](#) for up-to-date information about what the government is doing in practice.

### U Visa Changes

- **Rules Regarding Adjustment of Status for U Visa Holders Changes Slightly**
  - **What happened:** On November 3, 2025, USCIS updated their internal policies to align with a Supreme Court ruling from 2021 which found that being granted a U visa does not count as an "admission" under immigration law.
  - **What does it mean?** If you got a U visa and your only legal "admission" into the U.S. comes from that visa, you can no longer use the faster family-based process to apply for a green card and must use the regular U-visa process instead.
  - **Read the alert here:** [USCIS Alert](#).

## **On the Horizon: Forecasted Changes in 2026**

- **Internal Documents Show Trump Administration Wants to Block Permanent Residency for Nationals from Travel Ban Countries**
  - **What is proposed:** According to leaked documents obtained by the New York Times, the Trump Administration wants the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to make it harder for people from countries with travel bans to get a green card. Currently, there are nineteen countries for which this proposal may apply. Those countries include countries with full travel bans: Afghanistan, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. It also includes countries with partial travel bans: Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan and Venezuela. When someone from one of these countries applies for permanent residency, the Trump Administration wants the government to consider the fact that the person comes from one of these countries as a “factor against them” - meaning that they will have a harder time than someone else.
  - More information is available on this story [from the New York Times](#).
  
- **USCIS Moving Forward with Stricter “Public Charge” Rules**
  - **What is proposed:** During the first Trump Administration, the government made it harder for people to become permanent residents if they could not prove that they would not become a “public charge.” The term “public charge” is an old term meaning someone who relies on financial support from public programs. The Biden Administration undid that rule from before, but now the Trump Administration wants it back. If this rule passes, it means that the government will count more types of public assistance against you that you may have received in the past, or it will look at your future income more carefully and decide if they think you are likely to ask for that kind of help in the future.
  - **Where to read the proposed rule:** [American Immigration Lawyers Link](#).

**As always: helpful resources are available for UFCW members at the Novo Legal website:**

[www.novo-legal.com/ufcw](http://www.novo-legal.com/ufcw)