

IMMIGRATION JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Withholding of Removal Rights & Responsibilities

Congratulations on winning Withholding of Removal protection! We are very happy for you and wish you the best as you begin your new life in the United States. This guide contains information on what you should do once you are released from detention.

(1) Evidence of Status

The Immigration Judge's decision is evidence of your being granted Withholding of Removal

(2) Work Permit

Because you have Withholding of Removal, you are eligible to obtain an Employment Authorization Document ("EAD" or "work permit") that will allow you to work in the United States. You can apply for a work permit by submitting an I-765 application to USCIS with the required fee and documents. Here is a link to the application: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-765>. Please note that you must pay a fee to obtain your work permit and must reapply for the work permit every year.

(3) Social Security Card

You may obtain a restricted Social Security card, meaning that it is valid for work only with DHS authorization (that is, that you must also present an EAD to be able to work legally). For more information on applying for this card, visit the Social Security Administration's website at www.ssa.gov, call 1-800-772-1213, or visit a local Social Security office. When you go to the Social Security office to apply for your card, you must bring with you the following documents: the final order of the Immigration Judge granting you Convention Against Torture relief and photo identification such as your EAD.

(4) Traveling Abroad

A person granted withholding of removal **cannot travel outside the United States**. If you do, you are considered to have self-deported and the order of removal the immigration judge issued in your case will go into effect. This will make it very unlikely that you will be able to reenter the United States in the future.

(5) Orders of Supervision

Because the Immigration Judge ordered you removed and then withheld (stopped) your removal, the government retains the legal right to deport you to a country other than the one from which you were granted protection- we call these "third countries". We are seeing more and more instances of the government trying to remove people to third countries. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) frequently issues "Orders of Supervision" that require people granted Withholding of Removal relief to "check in" regularly with ICE either in person or by phone, and to request prior permission before leaving the state. If you have an Order of Supervision, it is very important that you follow its terms. Required check-ins can sometimes last for years, or forever,

and if you miss a required check-in, ICE may take you back into custody (detention).

(6) Duty to Inform USCIS of Your Current Address

Unless you one day become a U.S. citizen, you are required by law to notify USCIS of any changes of address within 10 days of your move. This can be done online by visiting www.uscis.gov and clicking “Change of Address” under the “Customer Tools” menu on the left of the screen. It is very important that you print a confirmation of your change of address for your records.

(7) Duty to Register with Selective Service

If you are a male between the ages of 18 and 26, you are required to register with the Selective Service, which you can do here: <https://www.sss.gov/>. Select “Register Online.” Once you complete your online registration, the system will give you a confirmation “Selective Service Number,” which you should keep for your records. If you decide to apply for U.S. citizenship in the future, the application form will require this number.

(8) Changing your status in the future

Unfortunately, there is no way that you can get your legal permanent residency or your citizenship based on your grant of Withholding of Removal. It may be possible in the future to apply for other kinds of immigration benefit (green cards through family, U-Visa, T-Visa, etc) but there is nothing you can apply for based on your grant of Withholding of Removal

(9) Petitioning for your family members

Unfortunately, a grant of Withholding of Removal does not allow you to help family members who were not a part of your case. Unlike a grant of asylum, you cannot bring your family members to the U.S. or help get legal status for your family members in the U.S.

(10) Need Legal Assistance?

Once you have your order granting Withholding of Removal, you may need help with some of the forms and processes above. If you have finances to hire a private immigration attorney, you can find one in your local area by visiting <https://www.aialawyer.com/>. If you are seeking free or lower-cost assistance, you can visit <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/> and enter your zip code to find a local non-profit legal services organization that may be able to help you.

Congratulations on your grant of Withholding of Removal protection and best of luck!