



**EVACUATE OUR ALLIES**

## **DS-4317 FAQ**

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**Please note:** the information below was collected by various members of the Evacuate Our Allies and #AfghanEvac coalitions in ongoing engagements with the U.S. government. The information below does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. While we will strive to keep the below updated, the information is subject to change and may not constitute the most up-to-date information.

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1. The form will only accept at 10 digit Afghan phone number, not a 9 digit phone number
  - a. DoS is working on a fix for this, likely to be updated shortly
  - b. In the meantime, you may add a 0 (zero) at the start of the number in order to be able to submit
2. What should a parolee do if their name has several different English spellings?
  - a. For the parolee in the United States, the name submitted on the DS-4317 should match the spelling of the name listed on their EAD cards/USCIS documentation
3. For family members in Afghanistan who do NOT have a valid passport, is there a way to complete the form or request reunification? Is a passport required in order to complete the form or now? The instructions say "Passport (if available) – for each family member"
  - a. A passport is **not** required to complete the form. Parolees are encouraged to submit this form regardless of whether or not their family members have a passport. This will help signal to the Department of State the volume of family reunifications, and conditions of the relocation program may shift in the future. As of the last update to this page, passports are required for *relocation* through the USG system.
4. How does the DS-4317 interact with the I-730? Some parolees that are eligible to submit this form are currently awaiting asylum decisions.
  - a. The status of the person will be determined based on the date of submission of DS-4317 to CARE. Meaning, if the person is a parolee on the date of submission, s/he is eligible to submit the form. USCIS will first validate that the person was a parolee on the date of submission and therefore eligible to request parolee family member reunification.
  - b. The way someone starts the process - e.g., as a family member of a parolee - may not be the way someone is eventually processed - e.g., as a family member of an asylee. How a case is identified to CARE is not necessarily how a case will be processed.
  - c. Generally, the asylum status of the parolee will matter at the date the DS-4317 was submitted.
    - i. If a parolee is *awaiting* an asylum decision, they may still submit Form DS-4317 regardless of where they are in the asylum process, as long as asylum has not been granted.
    - ii. If a parolee has been *granted* asylum, Form DS-4317 cannot be submitted. Information on how those with asylum status can reunite with their family - by completing the I-730 follow to join and/or Priority 3 programs - are available from IRAP [here](#) (available in Dari and Pashto). If Afghans are working with an immigration attorney or a resettlement agency (RA), the attorney or RA may be able to assist in these processes.
      1. Please note: There is no advantage to submitting the DS-4317 over the I-730, or any of the other Family Reunification pathways detailed [here](#). The family members of Asylees with approved I-730s may also be eligible for departure assistance from Afghanistan; upon approval, DoS or USCIS will contact your family members to continue the process.

- iii. If a parolee has an *approved adjustment of status application*, Form DS-4317 does not apply. There is more information on how those who received an approved application to adjust status can reunite with their family through the SIV follow to join program from IRAP [here](#) (available in Dari and Pashto). If Afghans are working with an immigration attorney or a resettlement agency, the attorney or RA may be able to assist in these processes.
  - 1. Please note: There is no advantage to submitting the DS-4317 over the SIV follow to join, or any of the other Family Reunification pathways detailed [here](#). The Department of State will contact your family members with departure options after the NVC has notified your family members that their SIV applications are ready for an interview.
- 5. When will the form be translated into Dari and Pashto?
  - a. The State Department has sent the form and the [Family Reunification Page](#) through official translation services. We are awaiting a timeline on when the pages will be live in Dari and Pashto
- 6. If I am a parolee, do I need to have applied for or been granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to fill out and use this form?
  - a. No, if you are an OAW parolee with *or* without TPS you may use this form
- 7. Is it one form per person or one form per family?
  - a. One form should be submitted for all of the eligible family members of a single parolee. After submitting contact information for the first person (e.g., separated spouse), select “Add Person” to add another family member (e.g., separated child).
  - b. You can use the same contact information for each family member (i.e., phone numbers and email addresses can be used more than once in the form).
  - c. As a reminder, eligible family members are first spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21 (see more detail on age in next question).
- 8. What if my child was under 21 when the NEO (August 2021 emergency drawdown) happened, but is now over 21?
  - a. DS-4317 will consider the age of the child at the time of separation in August 2021. The age is essentially frozen at that time.
- 9. Does the form confirm that a submission was accepted?
  - a. Yes. Upon submission, a page comes up that says “Thank you for submitting this request for U.S. government departure assistance...”
  - b. If you do not receive this, you should assume that the form was not received and you should fill it out again.
  - c. There is currently not a way to save progress in the form - it must be completed and submitted all at one time.

10. What can parolees expect from the communication process after the submission of DS-4317? Will someone who submits the form hear back from CARE if their family members' cases are accepted or not? What is the expected timeframe for that?
- DoS plans to roll out an auto-reply email in the future, in addition to the confirmation page.
  - Following submission, USCIS validates that the person is/was a parolee on the date of form submission.
  - After USCIS review, a CARE Family Reunification Contact Center Case Manager will email the parolee regardless of result; if the parole was confirmed, the contact center will request documentation from the parolee (e.g., marriage, birth certificates, passports if available)
  - The person should respond to the contact center with one file per person per document (e.g., Last Name\_First Name\_Birth Certificate)
11. Will the U.S. government issue travel documents for those family members who do not hold a valid passport?
- Passports are currently required for travel through all U.S. government relocation channels
  - The U.S. government does not facilitate Afghan passports
12. Can this form be used for family members of parolees who are outside Afghanistan but in third countries (like Pakistan, for example)?
- Yes, there is a requirement when adding a person to the case to select the country the family member is in; all countries should be available in the drop down menu.
- Generally, for CARE to provide travel support from a 3<sup>rd</sup> country to a lily-pad, US diplomatic presence in a 3<sup>rd</sup> country is required. For qualifying DS-4317 beneficiaries located in 3<sup>rd</sup> countries without US diplomatic presence (e.g. Iran), CARE is unable at this time to support travel to a lily-pad for ongoing processing.
13. Can an Afghan with temporary protected status who is *not* an OAW parolee use this form?
- No, this form is only for parolees. We are awaiting further guidance on whether or not this form is limited to parolees who entered through Operation Allies Welcome.
14. Will this form be usable for unaccompanied Afghan minors? (Minor children in the U.S. whose parents remain in Afghanistan)
- No, the DS-4317 is not intended for Afghan minors in the United States to request reunification with their parents and siblings in Afghanistan. We are awaiting further guidance from the Office of Refugee Resettlement on this issue. In the meantime, ORR recommends reaching out to their sub-contracted Providencia Call Center phone number or email with any questions on unaccompanied Afghan minors:
    - Providencia Call Center: 833-624-3051
    - [ORRAfghanNCC@TheProvidenciaGroup.com](mailto:ORRAfghanNCC@TheProvidenciaGroup.com)
15. What should a parolee who submits a DS-4317 do if a family member receives a passport after they have submitted the initial form?
- Send copies of the passports to [CARETravelData@state.gov](mailto:CARETravelData@state.gov) and include the name of the Parolee

16. Does the DS-4317 apply to other forms of parole that an Afghan may have entered the U.S. on (e.g., non-OAW, e.g., SPBP)?
- Generally speaking, the form is only for parolees admitted under OAW parole, but ultimately USCIS will be responsible for determining eligibility
17. Can this form be used for the fiancée of an Afghan parolee in the United States?
- No, the form is meant for spouses and unmarried children under 21. Currently there is only an immigration pathway for fiancées of [American citizens](#).
18. If a parolee is granted asylum after submitting DS-4317, can the principal applicant (PA) file an I-730 anyway?
- Yes they can, but if the DS-4317 was filed as a parolee they have declared an intent to reunify with their family and that's all they need to do – any subsequent filings will not interfere nor invalidate the initial submission. Generally, the way someone starts the process - e.g., as a family member of a parolee - may not be the way someone is eventually processed - e.g., as a family member of an asylee. This process *may* differ for those who adjust their status through the SIV process, but CARE has more options for relocating SIVs.
19. For those who have submitted through the form for family reunification, would there be any benefit to also submitting a P3 application?
- Parolees can only submit the request for family reunification through the DS-4317. Unless they have adjusted their status, the DS-4317 is their only option.
20. How should someone proceed with completing the DS-4317 if the birthday on the Employment Authorization Document (EAD) is incorrect (doesn't match all other documentation)?
- They need to use the information on the USCIS issued documentation (such as the EAD) to ensure a match in the USCIS system. Documentation discrepancies can be worked through at a later stage in the process.

## Questions Pending Answers:

- Is there other documentation that can take the place of documents like birth certificates/marriage certificates? For example, if client's don't have birth certificates or marriage certificates, can they submit affidavits with ID and include contact info. for affiant?
  - Related: For DS-4317, can AHPs apply for family members that don't have biometric tazkera? What should they put for birthday in that case? (Paper Tazkeras don't list exact birthdate)
  - Related: What should someone do if family members do not have tazkera?
  - There have been successful instances of Afghan Ministry of the Interior giving replacement documentation in Afghanistan (add'l resources on where to get new tazkera)
  - In extreme cases, DNA testing in Pakistan has been an option
- If they don't have an EAD card or USCIS documentation or even an I-94 (especially thinking of border entry parolees), any guidance?
- Is there any guidance CARE can share on how resettlement agencies and NGOs that referred family reunification cases before the form launch can confirm receipt/track progress?
- Will there be any sort of refugee interview process from USCIS refugee corps for family members not in the U.S. during this process?
- Does unmarried child mean never married? For example, an 18-year old daughter who is a widow is eligible or not? If she is eligible, what about her child?
- Are there any additional steps that clients who have documentation errors (e.g. two A#s) that haven't been fixed by USCIS need to take?