

## General Comparison of Family-Based Immigration Options

<b><i>Petition Type</i></b>	<b>AOR Refugee Family Sponsorship (African/Asian)</b>	<b>I-730 Refugee/Asylee Follow-to-Join Petition</b>	<b>I-130 Family-Based Petition</b>
<b><i>Petitioner Status</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original status: refugee or asylee</li> <li>On qualified countries list</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original status: refugee or asylee</li> <li>Must be PRINCIPAL of own case, not derivative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>US Citizen or LPR</li> <li>Refugee/asylee status not required</li> </ul>
<b><i>Filing Deadline</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>File within <u>5</u> years of date of entry as refugee or asylum grant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>File within <u>2</u> years of date of entry as refugee or asylum grant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
<b><i>Possible Beneficiaries</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biological parent</li> <li>Spouse</li> <li>Unmarried children under 21 (biological, step and <u>legally</u> adopted*--special rules regarding legal adoption and step children)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spouse</li> <li>Unmarried children under 21 (biological, step and <u>legally</u> adopted*--special rules regarding fathers petitioning for out-of-wedlock kids, legal adoptions and step children)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biological parent (USC only)</li> <li>Spouse</li> <li>Unmarried children of any age (biological, step and <u>legally</u> adopted*--special rules regarding fathers petitioning for out-of-wedlock kids, legal adoptions and step children)</li> <li>Married children of any age (USC only)</li> <li>Brothers and sisters (USC only)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Constraints on Relationships</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationships MUST have existed at time of entry to US or asylum grant (biological children can be in utero)</li> <li>Cannot do for unrevealed relationships—must match A file</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationships MUST have existed at time of entry to US or asylum grant (biological children can be in utero)</li> <li>CAN do for unrevealed relationships (higher burden of proof)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relationships can come into existence after entry to US</li> <li>CAN do for unrevealed relationships (higher burden of proof)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Beneficiary Requirements</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On qualified countries list</li> <li>Outside country of origin</li> <li>Able to make own persecution claim</li> <li>Need to prove relationship and admissibility to US</li> <li>MUST have legal status in current country (UNHCR registration or registration with government)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No need to prove refugee status (can be inside home country, not refugee at all)</li> <li>Need to prove relationship and admissibility to US</li> <li>Legal status in current country (UNHCR registration or registration with government) not required, but would help</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not related to refugee status at all—for anyone</li> <li>Only need to prove relationship and admissibility to US</li> </ul>
<b><i>DNA Testing</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required but will be refunded if DNA matches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible DNA tests \$650ish/person</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible DNA tests \$650ish/person</li> </ul>

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<b><i>USCIS/State Dept fees</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FREE to file initial petition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FREE to file initial petition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variable costs depending on case category, but average \$1,200+ per person for entire process</li> </ul>
<b><i>Timeframe</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-5+ years (wide variation based on location and other processing factors)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 years possible but may hit processing slow-downs that could take it to 4 years or more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-2 years average for IRs (Spouse, Minor Children and Parents of USCs)</li> <li>• 2 to 12+ years preference categories (everyone else not listed above)</li> </ul>
<b><i>Status when entering the US</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugee</li> <li>• Work authorized immediately</li> <li>• Apply for green card one year after arrival</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same status as principal (refugee derivative or asylee derivative)</li> <li>• Work authorized immediately</li> <li>• Apply for green card one year after arrival</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawful permanent resident (green card comes in mail within a few weeks)</li> <li>• Work authorized immediately</li> </ul>
<b><i>Benefits</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel loan</li> <li>• Refugee case management</li> <li>• Public Assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• V93s (refugee derivatives): travel loan and refugee case management</li> <li>• V92 (asylee derivatives): pay own travel and same benefits as asylees (less than refugees)</li> <li>• Public Assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No government benefits!</li> <li>• Need financial sponsor</li> <li>• Pay own travel</li> <li>• No cash, food stamps, SSI or medical until naturalization (usually at least 5 years)</li> </ul>

Last updated 2019

*This information was created by Arrive Ministries for general information purposes only – each person and case must be evaluated individually to determine qualifications for any immigration benefit.*