

General Comparison of Family-Based Immigration Options

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

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

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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.