

IMMIGRATION SENTINEL

December 2025



Jennifer Cory, Partner

December 2025 Visa Bulletin

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) [December 2025 Visa Bulletin](#) reflects forward progress in a few family-sponsored preference categories. Most employment-based categories have forward progress in the “Final Action Dates” chart, but none in the “Date for Filing” chart. Similar to the month prior, All applicants must use the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) Dates for Filing chart.

Proposed Public Charge Changes

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) [published](#) a notice of proposed rulemaking to rescind the 2022 public charge ground of inadmissibility regulations. If it becomes final, the rule will give adjudicators broader discretion when evaluating applicants' likelihood to become a public charge. This appears related to prior [reports](#) of a U.S. Department of State (DOS) cable that expands the list of reasons a visa application can be denied. Conditions such as obesity are highlighted as potential indicators of future financial strain, prompting closer review of medical reports and possible refusals for additional physician input.

Welcome to the December 2025 issue of our monthly newsletter, *The Immigration Sentinel*. As we monitor immigration benefits and compliance developments, we hope that this medium will be a valuable resource in helping you stay informed and prepared for potential changes that may impact you corporately and individually.

Temporary Protected Status Ending

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [announced](#) the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for South Sudan. The termination will be effective 1/5/26.



Jeffrey Widdison, Senior Counsel

Temporary Protected Status Syria

USCIS intends to appeal the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York verbal order to stay the termination of TPS for Syria. Syria TPS was expected to end on 11/21/2025. While the stay is in place, those with Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) in the A12 and C19 may choose to continue to work but it remains unclear for how long.

Temporary Protected Status Burma (Myanmar)

DHS announced the termination of TPS for Burma (Myanmar). The termination is effective 1/26/26. As of that date, Burmese nationals granted TPS will no longer maintain status, and all EADs issued under this designation will expire.

Asylum Applications on Hold

In the wake of news that an Afghan national—who had been granted asylum status in the U.S.—shot two National Guard soldiers in Washington, D.C. on 11/26/2025, media is reporting that President Trump has directed USCIS to pause all asylum decisions (regardless of applicant nationality) and will review all asylum approvals issued under the Biden Administration.

Refugee Approvals Under Review

Reuters reports that USCIS Director Joe Edlow issued an internal memo on 11/21/2025 ordering USCIS personnel to review and potentially re-interview all refugee approvals from 1/21/2021 to 2/20/2025, (about 200,000 cases). USCIS will also stop adjudicating any applications to adjust status filed by refugees, their derivatives, and follow-to-join refugees admitted during this timeframe.

Government Shutdown Accommodations

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC) released guidance about accommodating certain filing submissions due to the government shutdown. Highlights include: how OFLC will treat applications and correspondence it received between 10/1/2025 and 11/2/2025; considerations for employers whose PERM recruitment expired between 10/1/2025 and 11/2/2025; automatic extensions on response and appeal deadlines; and emergency filing procedures for H-2A, H-2B, and CW-1 applications.

Annual Asylum Fees Paused

USCIS announced that it is complying with a district court order pausing the practice of Annual Asylum Fee (AAF) notice issuance, as promulgated by USCIS in July 2025 and directed to applicants with pending I-589 Applications for Asylum in FY2025 and applicants who filed after 10/1/2024 whose applications remain pending for 365 days. While the district court's order remains in place, applicants may disregard previously issued AAF notices, but USCIS will not refund prior payments.

Temporary Protected Status Syria

ABC news reported on U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement's (ICE) plans to open a "National Call Center" in Nashville, Tennessee, to track unaccompanied migrant children for potential removal, handling 6,000-7,000 calls per day and possibly opening by June 2026. The announcement comes alongside DHS offering \$2,500 stipends to children who voluntarily depart the United States.

Refugee Admissions to be Allocated to Afrikaners

President Trump issued a memorandum for DOS, DHS, and Health and Human Services (HHS) secretaries justifying limiting admission to 7,500 refugees in FY2026. Admissions will be primarily allocated to Afrikaners and "other victims of illegal or unjust discrimination in their respective homelands."

Please contact us at CoryImmigrationTeam@FisherBroyles.com or 1.833.4FB.VISA with questions. We stand ready to support!