



# Family Sponsorship @ Ellis Porter

## Obtaining Green Cards for Qualifying Relatives

### Who Can I Sponsor for a Green Card?

*If you are a U.S. citizen*, you can sponsor the following relatives for permanent resident (“green card”) status:

- Immediate Relatives (Spouse, unmarried children under age 21 and parents);
- Unmarried sons or daughters age 21 and older (also called “First Preference Immigrants”);
- Married sons or daughters (also called “Third Preference Immigrants”); and
- Brothers or sisters (also called “Fourth Preference Immigrants”)

*If you are a U.S. Green Card Holder*, you can sponsor the following relatives for green card status:

- Spouse or children under age 21 (also called “Second Preference (2A) Immigrants”);
- Unmarried sons or daughters age 21 and older (also called “Second Preference (2B) Immigrants”)

### How Do The Preference Categories Work?

Under U.S. immigration law, there is an annual quota on the number of immigrant visa numbers allocated to immigrants in the First, Second, Third and Fourth Preference categories. Each year, the number of applications filed in each of the four categories exceeds the numbers available by varying degrees. As a result, significant backlogs exist in each category, ranging from 8 years to over 20 years.

#### *Special Benefits for Immediate Relatives of U.S. Citizens:*

Applications for Immediate Relatives are not subject to annual quotas. Thus, applicants in this category do not experience any additional waiting periods beyond normal application processing times.

### Application Processing

If your qualifying relative is outside the U.S., the application process is coordinated through the U.S. Embassy/Consulate in your relative’s home country. If your relative is in the U.S., the process may be coordinated in-country through U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services via the Adjustment of Status process.

#### K-1 and K-3 Visa Options

By using either the K-1 or K-3 visa process for a relative outside the U.S., you may be able to get them to the U.S. sooner.

**K-1 “Fiancé(e)” Visa:** The K-1 visa allows the fiancé(e) of a U.S. citizen to enter the U.S. with the intention of getting married within 90 days. After the marriage, your foreign spouse can then coordinate the rest of the green card process via Adjustment of Status.

**K-3 Visa:** The K-3 visa allows the spouse of a U.S. citizen residing outside the U.S. to enter and remain in the U.S. while they coordinate the rest of the green card process via Adjustment of Status.

#### How Can Ellis Porter Assist Me?

##### Strategy Development

Ellis Porter will work with you to develop the most advantageous case strategy for your relative(s).

##### Application Preparation and Filing

Utilizing our streamlined internal processes, Ellis Porter will assure that your application is prepared both efficiently and accurately.

##### Case Management

After your case is filed, Ellis Porter will keep you continually updated on the progress of your case.

##### Ongoing Expert Advice

Throughout the life of your case, Ellis Porter’s attorneys are available to answer any ongoing questions you may have about your case.

##### Interview Representation

Ellis Porter’s attorneys are able to attend your interview with you to assure it goes smoothly.

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