

DACA UPDATE

On September 5, 2017, the Trump administration rescinded the executive action that created the DACA (Differed Action for Childhood Arrivals) Program created under the Obama administration. Below is a brief overview of these changes:

- Work permits for current DACA beneficiaries will be valid until the expiration date stated on the work permit.
- USCIS (Immigration) will no longer accept initial (new) DACA applications filed after September 5th, 2017, but will continue to process applications that were already pending by September 5th.
- USCIS will continue to accept renewal applications **until October 5th, 2017** from current DACA beneficiaries whose benefits will expire between September 5th and March 5th, 2018. **Please note renewal applications must be properly submitted and accepted by USCIS on or before October 5th, 2017.**
- No new applications for Advance Parole (Travel Permits) based on DACA status will be accepted and all pending applications will be closed and the filing fees will be refunded.

What does this mean for me?

If you currently have DACA:

Your permit is valid until its expiration date. You will have deferred action and permission to work until your work permit expires. Go to www.weareheretostay.org to learn about joining the fight for permanent legal status for DREAMers.

If your DACA expires between now and March 5, 2018 you must submit a renewal application before October 5th, 2017. It is important to act immediately and only with help from an attorney or BIA (DOJ) Accredited representative. See below for information on how to receive free legal representation.

If you currently DO NOT have DACA:

No new DACA applications will be accepted. Starting on September 5th you can no longer apply for initial DACA.

If you have an initial DACA case that is pending, USCIS will continue to process your application. Please make sure to attend your biometrics (fingerprinting) appointment and respond to any Requests for Evidence that you receive.

Feeling overwhelmed? We are encouraging EVERYONE to take care of their mental health:

<http://defenddaca.com/resources/mental-health-toolkit/>

Want to get involved? Visit www.weareheretostay.org to mobilize and take action!

GET LEGAL HELP NOW:

BakerRipley Immigration team is here to help. We are offering FREE legal representation for DACA renewal applicants from September 7th - October 2nd. If your DACA work permit expires before March 5, 2018, please come to our offices as soon as possible:

- Baker Ripley location (6500 Rookin Street, Houston, Texas 77074) Monday - Friday 9:30AM-4:30PM on walk-in basis (no appointment required)
- Ripley House location (4410 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Texas 77011). Tuesday/Thursday 9:30AM-4:30PM on walk-in basis (no appointment required)



What to bring:

- 1) Current DACA work permit, ID, and social security card
- 2) Current mailing address where you can safely receive mail for next 6 months
- 3) Previous DACA approval notices (if available)
- 4) Copy of previous DACA application (if available)
- 5) If you traveled, proof of advance parole and all travel-related documents (such as passport)
- 6) If you have EVER been arrested, you must bring copy of arrest/court records
- 7) 2 passport photos
- 8) \$495 money order payable to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

If these times are not convenient for you, many non-profits across the Houston Area provide either free or low-cost consultations. To find a non-profit near you, visit:

<http://www.houstonimmigration.org/locator/>.

Unless the U.S. government demands you return your work permit:

- You have the right to work legally until your work permit's expiration date
- You have no obligation to inform your employer that DACA has ended. Your employer does not have the right to ask you whether you are a DACA recipient or how you got your work permit.
- Your employer does not have the right to fire you, put you on leave, or change your work status until after your work permit has expired. If your expiration date is nearing, your employer may ask you for an updated work permit but cannot take any action against you until it expires. For more information about your rights as an employee, see this advisory issued by the National Immigration Law Center: <https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/daca-and-workplace-rights/>

Social Security Numbers (SSN):

- Your SSN will be your SSN number for life, even once your permit and DACA approval expires
- If you have not done so already, apply for a SSN while your DACA and work permit are still valid
- You can and should continue to use the SSN you got under DACA as your SSN for certain purposes even after your work permit expires. You can use it for education, banking, housing and other purposes
- Your SSN contains a condition on it that requires a valid work permit to use it for employment purposes

Driver's Licenses and Other Identification Cards:

- Eligibility for these depends on the state in which you live. If you have not already done so, apply for a driver's license or state identification card if your DACA is still valid and that makes you eligible for a driver's license or state-issued identification card in your state.
- In Texas you can apply for a driver's license or ID if you have valid DACA status and it will be valid as long as you have your status.

Here are a few more resources recommended by the Immigrant Legal Resource Center. To find the original document, visit: https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/if_daca_ends.pdf

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND STEPS YOU CAN TAKE IN THE MEANTIME

- Consult with an immigration attorney to see if there are any other legal options, and to create a plan of action. For a list of non-profit organizations in the Houston area, you can call 1-888-507-2970, or visit <http://www.houstonimmigration.org/locator/>. To find a private attorney you can visit <http://www.aialawyer.org/>.
- Get other forms of identification such as a passport from your home country, a bank card with a photo ID, a Costco Membership Card, a Driver's License, etc. if possible.
- Refresh yourself on what your rights are and create a family preparedness plan: <https://unitedwedream.org/thank-deportation-defense-card-handy-phone/>. Attend a Know Your Rights Session near you. BakerRipley hosts Know Your Rights Sessions on the first Friday of every month at 2pm, 6500 Rookin St. Houston, TX 77074. For more information call 713.273.3707.
- Get involved with the fight for DACA and connect with United We Dream: www.weareheretostay.org.
- Get an ITIN via IRS so you can do things like file taxes, open a bank account or start a business. For information on how to obtain an ITIN, you can call BakerRipley Tax Centers at 713.273.3755.
- Get your U.S. born children dual citizenship if they qualify. Contact the consulate of your host country for more information. Apply for their U.S. passports. For more information visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/apply.html>.
- If your children are non-citizens, try to get them a passport from their home country as soon as possible. Contact the consulate of your host country for more information.
- Create a power of attorney form as soon as possible for your children. You can contact Boat People SOS, a non-profit in the Houston Area, to fill out a power of attorney form. Contact info: 281-530-6888. Baker Ripley also hosts Power of Attorney workshops every other month. The next workshop will be held at 2pm on Friday October 6th. Assistance is free and we accept the first 20 people that arrive.
- Make copies of all important documents and keep them in a safe place. Find as many documents as you can to prove physical presence in the United States for as long as you've been here. Keep a copy of these documents on your phone and in a safe place in your home.
- Stay away from Notaries or "Notarios" that promise to fill out immigration paperwork on your behalf. A Notary is not licensed to provide you with legal advice or fill out legal documents. Notaries are not authorized to fill out power of attorney forms. Power of Attorney forms are useless unless they are created by an attorney. Contact the Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative to find a trusted list of nonprofit organizations that can direct you to the legal services you need.
- Seek mental health resources if you are feeling afraid or worried.
- Create a family plan in case anything should happen to you. Choose a friend or a family member to call and speak to an attorney on your behalf if immigration officials detain you. If you have children, you should also choose a friend or family member to take care of them should anything happen to you.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak to someone about your options, please call the Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative **M-F 2PM-6PM**, at 1-888-507-2970.