

1-551 – Sponsorship

Step 1: Is the immigrant an LPR?

The I-864 Affidavit of Support is required for LPRs entering or adjusting on or after 12/19/97 through a relative petition or through an employment petition filed by a relative.

If the immigrant is not an LPR, **STOP**.

Step 2: What is the code on the I-551 card?

The code on the I-551 tells you if the LPR is sponsored. The immigration code is listed under the heading of Category on the 1997 and the 2004 I-551 cards.

If the code matches one of the sponsorship codes on the list provided, the LPR is most likely sponsored.

Immediate Relatives of U.S. citizens

New arrival	Adj. in U.S.	Description
	CF1	Spouse of U.S. citizen, entered as fiancé(e), subject to 2-yr conditional residency
	CF2	Step-child of CF1
CR1	CR6	Spouse of U.S. citizen, subject to 2-yr. conditional residency
CR2	CR7	Child of U.S. citizen, subject to 2-yr. conditional residency
	IF1	Spouse of U.S. citizen, entered as fiancé(e)
	IF2	Child of IF1
IR1	IR6	Spouse of U.S. citizen
IR2	IR7	Child of U.S. citizen
IR3	IR8	Orphan adopted abroad
IR4	IR9	Orphan to be adopted
IR5	IR0	Parent of adult U.S. citizen
IW1	IW6	Spouse, widow or widower of a U.S. citizen
IW2	IW7	Child of IW1 or IW6

Family-Sponsored Preferences

1st Preference (unmarried sons/daughters of U.S. Citizens and their children)

New arrival	Adj. in U.S.	Description
F11	F16	Unmarried son/daughter of U.S. citizen
F12	F17	Child of F11 or F16

2nd Preference (spouses, children, and unmarried sons/daughters of LPRs)

New arrival	Adj. in U.S.	Description
C21	C26	Spouse of LPR, subject to 2-yr. conditional residency
C22	C27	Step-child of LPR, subject to 2 yr. conditional residency
C23	C28	Child of C21, C22, C26, or C27
C24	C29	Unmarried son/daughter who is step-child of an LPR, subject to 2 yr. conditional residency
C25	C20	Child of C24 or C29, subject to 2 year conditional residency
CX1	CX6	Spouse of LPR, subject to 2-yr. conditional residency
CX2	CX7	Step-child of LPR, subject to 2 yr. conditional residency
CX3	CX8	Child of CX2 or CX6, subject to 2 yr. conditional residency
F21	F26	Spouse of LPR
F22	F27	Child of LPR
F23	F28	Child of F21 or F26
F24	F29	Unmarried son/daughter of LPR
F25	F20	Child of F24 or F29

FX1	FX6	Spouse of LPR
FX2	FX7	Child of LPR
FX3	FX8	Child of FX1, FX2, FX7 or FX8

3rd Preference (married sons/daughters of U.S. citizens and their spouses and children)

New arrival	Adjustment in U.S.	Description
C31	C36	Married son/daughter of U.S. citizen, subject to 2-yr. conditional residency
C32	C37	Spouse of married son/daughter of U.S. citizen, subject to 2-yr. conditional residency
C33	C38	Child of C31 or C36, subject to 2 yr. conditional residency
F31	F36	Married son/daughter of U.S. citizen
F32	F37	Spouse of married son/daughter of U.S. citizen
F33	F38	Child of married son/daughter of U.S. citizen

4th Preference (brothers/sisters of U.S. citizens (21 years or >) and their spouses and children)

New arrival	Adjustment in U.S.	Description
F41	F46	Brother/sister of U.S. citizen
F42	F47	Spouse of brother/sister of U.S. Citizen
F43	F48	Child of brother/sister of U.S. Citizen

If the code does not appear on the list, the LPR is not sponsored, **STOP**.

Step 3: What is the date on the I-551 card?

The date on the I-551 card must be on or after 12/19/97. The I-864 Affidavit of Support is required for LPRs who enter or adjust on or after 12/19/97.

If the date on the card is prior to 12/19/97, **STOP**. No I-864 was filed.

Step 4: Does the LPR have 40 qualifying quarters of work?

Determine if the LPR has or can be credited with 40 qualifying quarters of work (also referred to as work quarters or Social Security credits).

If the LPR has or can be credited with 40 work quarters, **STOP**. Deeming does not apply. Do not verify the sponsor's name, address, income and assets.

For more information on how to determine qualifying quarters of work, please refer to Chapter 4 of the Guide to Non-citizen Eligibility for Cash and Food Support.

Step 5: Is the LPR or his/her child(ren) a victim of battery/extreme cruelty (victim of domestic violence)?

Determine if the sponsored LPR or his/her child(ren) meets the battered/extreme cruelty deeming exception.

If the sponsored LPR does meet this exception, do not deem the income and assets of the sponsor and the sponsor's spouse. If the sponsor is the batterer, do not contact the sponsor. This could put the victim in danger. Refer the client to an advocate.

If you have questions, please send them to PolicyQuest.

Step 6: Is the LPR indigent?

Determine if the LPR meets the indigent deeming exception.

If the LPR meets this exception, verify the sponsor's name and address. Contact the sponsor for verification of what, if any, assistance they are actually providing to the sponsored LPR.

Step 7: For FS, is the sponsored LPR an ineligible member due immigration status or under age 18?

If the sponsored LPR is ineligible for federally funded Food Support because of immigration status, the sponsor's income is not deemed to other eligible household members, **STOP** . Do not verify the sponsor's income and assets.

For example, the sponsored LPR has been here less than 5 years, he or she is not eligible for FS. Do not deem to other eligible FS household members.

For children under the age of 18, do not deem the sponsor's income and assets.