

Definitions taken from [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) and [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)

- **Aliens:** any person not a citizen or national of the United States
- **Asylee:** a person who cannot return to his home country because of a well founded fear or persecution.
- **Conditional residence visa:** if you have been married for less than two years when your husband or wife (spouse) gets lawful permanent resident status (gets a green card), then your spouse gets residence on a conditional basis. After two years you and your spouse must apply together to the Department of Homeland Security to remove the condition to the residence. The investor visa (EB5 or T5/C5) is also a conditional residence. It requires an application procedure after two years to remove the condition on the permanent residence.
- **fiancé(e):** a person who intends or is contracted to marry another person.
- **Green Card:** A wallet-sized card showing that the person is a lawful permanent resident (immigrant) in the United States. It is also known as permanent resident (PRC), an alien registration receipt card and I-551. It was formerly green in color.
- **Immigrant visas:** visas for people who intend to live in the United States permanently and indefinitely.
- **Labor Certification:** the initial stage of the process by which certain foreign workers get permission to work in the United States.
- **LIFE Act:** Legal Immigration Family Equity (LIFE) Act and amendments. This act of Congress allows foreign spouses, and spouses and children of certain lawful permanent residents (LPR) to come to the United States to complete the processing for their permanent residence. This Act became effective on December 21, 2000.
- **Naturalization:** a citizen who acquires nationality of a country after birth. That is, the person did not become a citizen by birth, but a legal procedure.
- **Nonimmigrant visas:** A U.S. visa allows the bearer, a foreign citizen, to apply to enter the United States temporarily for a specific purpose. Nonimmigrant visas are primarily classified according to the principal purpose of travel. With few exceptions, while in the U.S., nonimmigrants are restricted to the activity or reason for which their visa was issued.
- **Orphan:** A child is an orphan if he or she does not have any parents because of the death or disappearance of, abandonment or desertion by, or separation or loss from, both parents. A foreign-born child is also an orphan if his or her sole or surviving parent is incapable of providing care of the child and has, in writing, irrevocably release the child for emigration and adoption. In order to be able to qualify for immigration benefits, an orphan petition must be filed before the child's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. An orphan petition may be filed before the child's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, if the child is a natural sibling of an orphan or adopted child, and is adopted with or after that child, by the same adoptive parents.
- **Refugee:** a person who has a well-founded fear of persecution if he/she should return to his/her home country. He/she applies to come to the United States in another country and enters the United States as a refugee.