



Navigating the K-1 Visa

What is it?

- As you know, US citizens are allowed to “sponsor” their relatives so that they might become permanent residents as well. But what do you do when you have a fiancé who is outside the US?
- You apply for a K-1 visa. This visa is what allows the fiancé of a US citizen to come to the United States for the purpose of marriage.
- Once granted, your fiancé can enter the US. At that point, you have 90 days to marry.

How it Works

- The process begins with the U.S. citizen petitioner filing **Form I-129F** with the USCIS. Once the petition is approved, the fiancé(e) can apply for a K-1 visa at the U.S. embassy or consulate in their home country. This can include a medical examination and interview.
- After entering the US and marrying within 90 days, the foreign national must apply for adjustment of status to obtain lawful permanent residency, also known as a green card. This process involves filing **Form I-485**.

What to do?

- The USCIS’s job is to make sure that you have a valid, qualifying relationship with your fiancé. This means they need to see some evidence.
- Be prepared to provide the following:
 - Passport
 - Birth certificate
 - Evidence of your relationship (photos, messages, travel records)
 - Financial support documents
 - Police certificates, if required
 - Divorce decrees or death certificates for any previous marriages

What to expect

- Processing times vary with each application. But providing enough evidence of a bona fide relationship and of the financial support that is needed will help the process go more smoothly.
- There are many strict deadlines to meet throughout this process, and lots of paperwork to fill out. Our experienced legal team can assist with every step of the process, from preparing and filing the initial petition to attending the adjustment of status interview and ensuring compliance with all requirements and deadlines