



Deferred Enforcement Departure for Liberians: What We Know

Updated March 27, 2018

1. **What is DED?** [Deferred Enforcement Departure](#) or DED is a discretionary decision made by the President to protect a class of individuals. According to the [Congressional Research Service](#), DED has been used five times since 1990 and most recently for Liberia. DED decisions are country specific and typically in response to war, civil unrest, or natural disasters.
2. **What is the difference between TPS and DED?** While there is a similarity between Temporary Protected Status of TPS and DED, the source and type of relief are different. TPS originates from a statute enacted by Congress and is used to protect people temporarily from removal. TPS beneficiaries receive formal legal status and work authorization. By contrast, DED does not have a statutory basis but is derived from the presidential powers in the U.S. Constitution. DED beneficiaries receive a tenuous status akin to prosecutorial discretion and work authorization.
3. **What is the current status of DED?** Currently, [Liberians](#) are the only nationals with DED. They were initially designated for DED by President George W. Bush in 2007, and subsequently received extensions for varying time periods. The current period for Liberians with DED runs from October 1, 2016 through March 31, 2018. On March 27, 2018, President Donald J. Trump announced a “wind-down” period for DED holders beginning on March 31, 2018. Work authorization for DED holders will run for 12-months, starting on March 31, 2018. The President announced **March 31, 2019 as the effective date for termination of DED for all Liberian beneficiaries.**
4. **How will Liberians with DED be impacted when DED ends?** Individuals who do not qualify for another type of immigration status will lose their DED and work authorization. Liberians with DED have lived in the United States for over two decades and in many cases have gone to school, worked in essential jobs and built families in the United States.
5. **What should a current DED holder from Liberia do now?** DED holders should stay informed about future announcements from the administration. Those who wish to remain in the U.S. should seek alternative visas. Individuals should consult with an immigration attorney about what visa options they may be eligible for. Each person’s situation and immigration history will vary. Some DED holders may be eligible for asylum. Others may be able to “adjust” their status to “lawful permanent resident” (obtain a green card) through a qualifying relationship with a U.S. citizen, like a spouse. Individuals should be aware of “notaries” and refuse advice from individuals who seek to take advantage of a DED holder.
6. **Where can I find more resources?** More information can also be found on our [website](#).

The goal of this document is to provide general information regarding DED and is not meant to act as a substitute to legal advice from an attorney.