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TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS: FAQs

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1. What is Temporary Protected Status (TPS)?

TPS is a temporary immigration benefit that allows nationals of designated countries who are already in the United States to stay for a designated period of time because of special conditions preventing them from returning safely to their home countries.¹ TPS does not lead to any permanent immigration status.

2. When should I apply for TPS?

Each designated country has a registration period for initial registration/re-registration. Check the USCIS TPS page for the specific designated country to find the designation period to register/re-register for TPS.

3. How long will it take for USCIS to process my TPS application?

Current processing times can be found on the USCIS site at: <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/>.

4. Can I apply for TPS if I am applying for another immigration benefit (asylum, SIV, or adjustment of status (green card))?

Yes, applying for TPS does not prevent an individual from applying for any other immigration benefit or protection for which they are eligible. For example, you may have a TPS application pending as well as an asylum application.

5. Will my TPS application have any impact on my pending asylum application?

Applying for TPS will not affect the merits of the asylum application. If USCIS grants TPS to an individual but denies the asylum application, the individual will keep their TPS status.

6. What is my immigration status while my TPS application is pending?

While an individual's TPS application is pending they retain any current underlying immigration status.² A pending TPS application gives an applicant a right to remain in the United States while their TPS application is adjudicated.

7. If I am granted TPS, does my family receive TPS as well?

No, each eligible individual will need to file Form I-821 during the registration period for their country. There is no dependent status available for TPS. For example, a family of 5 would need to file 5 separate TPS packets.

¹ <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/temporary-protected-status>

² https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/questions-and-answers/Temporary_Protected_Status_TPS_Webinar_Questions_and_Answers.pdf

8. Should I file for an Employment Authorization Document (EAD card; work permit) with my TPS application? What if I already have an EAD card?

EAD cards are requested through USCIS Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization. It is recommended that you file for an EAD card with your TPS application even if you have an EAD card under another category, as TPS EAD cards may be eligible for blanket extensions, which may prevent gaps in work permission. If you receive a new EAD card, you should save your old one and use the newest one.

9. Can I file for advance parole (travel documents) if I have a TPS application pending? How long will this be issued for?

Yes. USCIS will continue issuing travel documents (advance parole) to individuals with pending initial TPS applications. Processing times for travel documents (Form I-131) vary, and may be found here: <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/>. If an individual with a pending application needs to travel outside the United States urgently, they may be able to request an expedited process.³ If you requested an advance parole document (Form I-131) and depart the United States without having it in hand, USCIS will consider your Form I-131 abandoned.⁴

10. Could applying for TPS affect future ability to obtain a nonimmigrant status?

Some nonimmigrant visas, such as an F-1 student visa, that require the applicant to show an intent to return home could be impacted by TPS if a U.S. consular officer determines you cannot demonstrate intent to return home. While registration for TPS does not prevent you from applying for a nonimmigrant visa in the future, you should consult with an attorney if you may be considering another immigration status in the future.

11. If I am a current TPS holder who has traveled abroad on advance parole, can I re-register for TPS?

To be eligible to re-register for TPS, you must meet the continuous physical presence and continuous residence requirement in the United States according to your country of nationality, and meet TPS registration requirements. There is an exception to the continuous physical presence and continuous residence requirements for brief, casual and innocent departures from the United States. You must inform USCIS of all absences from the United States when applying for re-registration. USCIS will decide whether the exception applies to your case.⁵

12. Where can I find more resources?

For more information, you may visit USCIS's page on TPS [here](#). On the left-hand side, you may navigate to your country's specific TPS page. The following resources also provide valuable information:

- [American Immigration Council TPS Fact Sheet](#)
- [USCIS Instructions for EAD Application](#)
- [USCIS Instructions for Travel Document Applications](#)
- [USCIS FAQ on TPS](#)

³ <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-guidance/how-to-make-an-expedite-request#:~:text=You%20can%20generally%20request%20expedited,top%20right%20of%20this%20page>

⁴ <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-guidance>

⁵ <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/explore-my-options/temporary-protected-status>