

OVERVIEW OF THE APPEAL PROCESS

If you disagree with the Immigration Judge's decision, you can ask the Board of Immigration Appeals ("Board") to review the decision. This is called an "appeal." Below is a summary of the process:

- 1) You must tell the Judge that you want to appeal. When the Immigration Judge issues the decision, the Judge will ask if you want to "reserve" (keep) your right to appeal. You must tell the Judge that you reserve appeal. If you "waive" (give up) your right to appeal, the Judge's decision becomes final.
- 2) Fill out the Notice of Appeal/Form EOIR-26 (included in this packet) in English. Where the form asks for the reasons for your appeal, give specific details and explain why you want to appeal the Judge's decision. Attach a check or money order to the Notice of Appeal for exactly \$110. If you cannot pay this fee, complete the Fee Waiver Request instead of paying (Form EOIR-26A, also included in this packet) and attach it to the Notice of Appeal.
- 3) Send the original signed forms to the Board at the address listed on the forms. Send a copy of everything you send to the Board to the Department of Homeland Security at 525 W. Van Buren, Suite 701, Chicago, IL 60607.
- 4) The Board must receive your Notice of Appeal/Form EOIR-26 within **30 days** of the Immigration Judge's decision or the Judge's decision becomes FINAL.

If you want to file a separate written brief or statement, you must say so on the Notice of Appeal. A brief is a document that states the facts and legal points of your case. The Board will send you a copy of the transcript (written copy of what everyone said at your hearing), the Immigration Judge's decision, and the deadline for you and the Department of Homeland Security to file briefs and statements. You **MUST** send your brief to the Board by the deadline. You **MAY** respond to the Department of Homeland Security's brief if you want to.

The Board will mail you a decision when it decides your case.

This information is not intended, nor should it be construed in any way, as legal advice. The information does not extend or limit the jurisdiction of the Immigration Courts as established by law and regulation. Nothing in this packet shall limit the discretion of Immigration Judges to act in accordance with law and regulation.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

(Please read carefully before completing and filing Form EOIR-26)

A. When to Appeal:

- Use this form (Form EOIR-26) only to appeal a decision by an **Immigration Judge**. If you wish to appeal a decision of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), you must use a different form (Form EOIR-29).
- You must send the Notice of Appeal so that it is **received** by the Board within thirty (30) calendar days after the Immigration Judge's oral decision, or within thirty (30) calendar days after the date the Immigration Judge's written decision was mailed (if no oral decision was rendered).
- Simply mailing your Notice of Appeal in thirty (30) days or less is not enough. Your Notice of Appeal must **arrive** at the Board in thirty (30) days or less. If your Notice of Appeal arrives late, your appeal will be dismissed.

B. Where to Appeal:

<i>Mail or deliver in person to this address:</i>	Board of Immigration Appeals Clerk's Office 5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2000 Falls Church, VA 22041
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C. How to Appeal:

- Read all of these instructions. **Note:** If you are the person in proceedings, you are the "Respondent" or "Applicant." You are also the "Appellant" if you are filing an appeal of a decision by an Immigration Judge.
- Fill out all three pages of the Notice of Appeal completely, answering items # 1 - 12 **in English only**.
- List in item # 1 the name(s) and Alien Number(s) ("A" numbers) of **all** Respondents/Applicants who are appealing the decision of the Immigration Judge.
- Sign item # 9.
- List the mailing address of the Respondent(s)/Applicant(s) in item # 10.
- Translate all documents that you attach to the Notice of Appeal into English. All translations must include the translator's statement stating that the translator is competent and that the translation is true and accurate.
- Write your name(s) and "A" Number(s) on all documents attached to the Notice of Appeal.
- Mail or give a copy of the completed Notice of Appeal and any attached documents to the opposing party. Complete and sign the "Proof of Service" to show you did this (item # 12). **Note:** If you are the Respondent or Applicant, the "Opposing Party" is the Assistant Chief Counsel of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
- Your appeal may be rejected or dismissed if you fail to properly complete the "Proof of Service" (item # 12).

D. Paying for the Appeal:

Attach a check or money order to the Notice of Appeal for exactly one hundred and ten dollars (U.S. \$110) made payable to "United States Department of Justice." All checks must be drawn on a bank located in the United States. If there are not sufficient funds in your account, your appeal may be dismissed.

- Write the name(s) and "A" Number(s) of all Respondent(s)/Applicant(s) on the check or money order.
- If you cannot pay for the appeal, complete a Fee Waiver Request (Form EOIR-26A) and attach it to the Notice of Appeal. The Board will review your request and decide whether to allow the appeal without payment of the fee.
- Your appeal may be rejected or dismissed if you fail to submit a fee or a properly completed Fee Waiver Request (Form EOIR-26A).

E. Lawyer or Representative Allowed:

- You may be represented by an attorney or representative who is authorized to appear before the EOIR. If you are represented by an attorney or authorized representative, he or she **must** file, with the Notice of Appeal, a Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Representative Before the Board of Immigration Appeals (Form EOIR-27).

F. Specify Reasons for the Appeal:

- Give specific details why you disagree with the Immigration Judge's decision.
- Most appeals are reviewed by a single Board Member. If you assert that your appeal warrants review by a three-Board Member panel, you may identify the specific factual or legal basis for your contention.

Cases will be reviewed by a three-member panel only if the case presents one of these circumstances:

- The need to settle inconsistencies among the rulings of different Immigration Judges;
- The need to establish a precedent construing the meaning of laws, regulations, or procedures;
- The need to review a decision by an Immigration Judge that is not in conformity with the law or with applicable precedents;
- The need to resolve a case or controversy of major national import;
- The need to review a clearly erroneous factual determination by an Immigration Judge; or
- The need to reverse the decision of an Immigration Judge other than a reversal under 8 C.F.R. § 1003.1(e)(5) (i.e., permitting a single Board Member to reverse a decision that has been affected by changes in statutes, regulations or case law.)

- Specify the finding(s) of fact, the conclusion(s) of law, or both, that you are challenging. If a question of law is presented, cite supporting legal authority. If the dispute is over the findings of fact, identify the specific facts you are challenging.
- Where the appeal concerns discretionary relief, state whether the alleged error relates to statutory grounds of eligibility or to the exercise of discretion. Identify the specific factual and legal findings you are challenging.
- If you do not give specific reasons, with details, in item # 6, or in attachments to your Notice of Appeal, the Board may dismiss your appeal on that basis alone.

G. Briefs:

- Indicate in item # 8 whether you intend to file an additional written brief or statement at a later date. The Board will send you a briefing schedule and, when appropriate, a transcript of the testimony.
- Even if you intend to file an additional brief or statement at a later date, you still must give detailed reasons for your appeal on the Notice of Appeal in item # 6 and attachments.

H. Oral Argument:

- If you ask for oral argument in item # 7, the Board will notify you if your request is granted.
- Even if you ask for oral argument, you still must give detailed reasons for your appeal on the Notice of Appeal in item # 6 and attachments.

- The Board ordinarily will not grant a request for oral argument unless you also file a brief.
- If you request oral argument, you should also state in item # 6 why you believe your case warrants review by a three-member panel.

I. Change of Address:

- If you move after sending your Notice of Appeal to the Board, you must give your new address to the Board within five (5) working days after you move. Use an alien's Change of Address Form (Form EOIR-33/BIA).
- Attorneys or representatives must also let the Board know if they change addresses or phone numbers, using Form EOIR-27. An attorney's or representative's change of address notification is only effective for the case in which it is submitted.

J. Further Information:

- For further guidance please see the Board of Immigration Appeals *Practice Manual*, which is available on the EOIR website at www.justice.gov/eoir.

K. Paperwork Reduction Act:

- Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. We try to create forms and instructions that are accurate, can be easily understood, and which impose the least possible burden on you to provide us with information. The estimated average time to complete this form is thirty (30) minutes. If you have comments regarding the accuracy of this estimate, or suggestions for making this form simpler, you can write to the Executive Office for Immigration Review, Office of the General Counsel, 5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2600, Falls Church, Virginia 22041.

L. Privacy Act Notice:

- The information on this form is authorized by 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.3, 1003.38 in order to appeal a decision of an Immigration Judge to the Board of Immigration Appeals. The information you provide is required to appeal the decision and failure to provide the requested information may result in denial of your request. EOIR may share this information with others in accordance with approved routine uses described in EOIR systems of records notices.

Departure From the United States:

If you leave the United States after an Immigration Judge's decision in removal or deportation proceedings, but before you appeal the decision to the Board, you may have waived your right to appeal. If you leave the United States after filing an appeal with the Board, but before the Board decides your appeal, your appeal may be withdrawn and the Immigration Judge's decision put into effect as if you had never filed an appeal.

Summary Dismissal of Appeal:

The Board may summarily dismiss any appeal or portion of any appeal in which: (1) The appellant fails to specify the reasons for the appeal (see Part F); (2) The only reason specified by the appellant for his/her appeal involves a finding of fact or conclusion of law that was conceded by him/her at a prior proceeding; (3) The appeal is from an order that granted the appellant the relief that had been requested; (4) The appeal is filed for an improper purpose, such as unnecessary delay, or lacks an arguable basis in fact or law, unless the Board determines that it is supported by a good faith argument for extension, modification, or reversal of existing law; (5) The appellant indicates on Form EOIR-26 that he/she will file a separate brief or statement in support of the appeal and, thereafter, does not file such brief or statement, or reasonably explain his/her failure to do so, within the time set for filing (see Part G); (6) The appeal does not fall within the Board's jurisdiction or jurisdiction lies with the Immigration Judge rather than the Board; (7) The appeal is untimely or barred by an affirmative waiver of the right to appeal that is clear on the record; or (8) The appeal fails to meet essential statutory or regulatory requirements or is expressly excluded by statute or regulation.

WARNING! You must:

- Sign the Notice of Appeal (item # 9).
- Include the fee or Fee Waiver Request (Form EOIR-26A).
- Complete and sign the Proof of Service.
- Make sure your appeal is received at the Board on or before the filing due date.

Staple Check or Money Order Here. Include Name(s) and "A" Number(s) on the face of the check or money order.

1. List Name(s) and "A" Number(s) of all Respondent(s)/Applicant(s):

For Official Use Only

! **WARNING:** Names and "A" Numbers of everyone appealing the Immigration Judge's decision must be written in item #1. The names and "A" numbers listed will be the only ones considered to be the subjects of the appeal.

2. I am the Respondent/Applicant DHS-ICE (Mark only one box.)
3. I am DETAINED NOT DETAINED (Mark only one box.)
4. My last hearing was at _____ (Location, City, State)

5. **What decision are you appealing?**

Mark only one box below. If you want to appeal more than one decision, you must use more than one Notice of Appeal (Form EOIR-26).

- I am filing an appeal from the Immigration Judge's decision *in merits proceedings* (example: removal, deportation, exclusion, asylum, etc.) dated _____ .
- I am filing an appeal from the Immigration Judge's decision *in bond proceedings* dated _____ . (For DHS use only: Did DHS invoke the automatic stay provision before the Immigration Court? Yes. No.)
- I am filing an appeal from the Immigration Judge's decision *denying a motion to reopen or a motion to reconsider* dated _____ .

(Please attach a copy of the Immigration Judge's decision that you are appealing.)

6. State in detail the reason(s) for this appeal. Please refer to the General Instructions at item F for further guidance. You are not limited to the space provided below; use more sheets of paper if necessary. Write your name(s) and "A" number(s) on every sheet.


(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

! **WARNING:** You must clearly explain the specific facts and law on which you base your appeal of the Immigration Judge's decision. The Board may summarily dismiss your appeal if it cannot tell from this Notice of Appeal, or any statements attached to this Notice of Appeal, why you are appealing.

7. Do you desire oral argument before the Board of Immigration Appeals? Yes No
8. Do you intend to file a separate written brief or statement after filing this Notice of Appeal? Yes No

! **WARNING:** If you mark "Yes" in item #7, you should also include in your statement above why you believe your case warrants review by a three-member panel. The Board ordinarily will not grant a request for oral argument unless you also file a brief.

If you mark "Yes" in item #8, you will be expected to file a written brief or statement after you receive a briefing schedule from the Board. The Board may summarily dismiss your appeal if you do not file a brief or statement within the time set in the briefing schedule.

9.  X _____ Date _____
Signature of Person Appealing
(or attorney or representative)

Form EOIR-26
Revised July 2015

10.

Mailing Address of Respondent(s)/Applicant(s)

(Name)

(Street Address)

(Apartment or Room Number)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(Telephone Number)

11.

Mailing Address of Attorney or Representative for the Respondent(s)/Applicant(s)

(Name)

(Street Address)

(Suite or Room Number)

(City, State, Zip Code)

(Telephone Number)

NOTE: You must notify the Board within five (5) working days if you move to a new address or change your telephone number. You must use the Change of Address Form/Board of Immigration Appeals (Form EOIR-33/BIA).

NOTE: If an attorney or representative signs this appeal for you, he or she must file *with this appeal*, a Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Representative Before the Board of Immigration Appeals (Form EOIR-27).

12.

PROOF OF SERVICE (You Must Complete This)

I _____ mailed or delivered a copy of this Notice of Appeal
 (Name)

on _____ to _____
 (Date) (Opposing Party)

at _____
 (Number and Street, City, State, Zip Code)



X _____
 Signature

NOTE: If you are the Respondent or Applicant, the "Opposing Party" is the Assistant Chief Counsel of DHS - ICE.

WARNING: If you do not complete this section properly, your appeal will be rejected or dismissed.

WARNING: If you do not attach the fee or a completed Fee Waiver Request (Form EOIR-26A) to this appeal, your appeal may be rejected or dismissed.

HAVE YOU?

- Read all of the General Instructions
- Provided all of the requested information
- Completed this form in English
- Provided a certified English translation for all non-English attachments
- Signed the form
- Served a copy of this form and all attachments on the opposing party
- Completed and signed the Proof of Service
- Attached the required fee or Fee Waiver Request
- If represented by attorney or representative, attach a completed and signed EOIR-27