

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

What is Deferred Action?

- Deferred action is the decision to acknowledge an immigrant's presence in the United States and to not initiate removal action (commonly known as deportation) of that individual.
- Deferred action does <u>not</u> give lawful immigration status.
- Deferred action can be terminated at any time at the agency's discretion or renewed by the agency.

Who Qualifies for DACA? The requirements are:

- Arrived in the United States under the age of sixteen:
- 2. Continuously resided in the United States from June 15, 2007 to the present and physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012 and at the time of filing the application;
- Currently enrolled in school, graduated from high school, obtained a general education development certificate (GED), are enrolled in GED classes or are honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Coast Guard or Armed Forces;
- Have not been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, multiple misdemeanor offenses, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety;
- Are at least 15 years old (you may apply when you are younger if you are in removal proceedings); and
- 6. Were under thirty-one on June 15, 2012.

What Does DACA Give Me?

- Employment authorization (must show "an economic necessity for employment.") for two years
- Deferral of removal for two years.

With valid employment authorization, you can obtain:

- Social security number
- Driver's license (in Illinois, policies vary by state)
- · Lawful employment

Visit immigrantjustice.org for information on upcoming pro bono clinics!

Other Important Information

- Don't be a victim of fraud: <u>only</u> consult with a licensed attorney or an organization recognized by the Board of Immigration Appeals (<u>www.usdoj.gov/eoir</u>)
- If you have a final order of removal, are in removal proceedings, or are in ICE custody but meet all of the requirements, you may still be eligible.
- Family members are not eligible for this protection unless they independently qualify.
- ATTENTION: If you have any arrests or prior immigration history, consult with an immigration attorney <u>before</u> applying for any benefit with immigration authorities.

or

Documents You Need:

Identity

 Birth Certificate and Photo Identification, or Passport

School/Military History

- School and military records
- GED certificate
- o High school diploma

Arrest records (if applicable)

 Certified dispositions for any arrest/conviction

Physical Presence

- School transcripts and report cards
- o Taxes, leases, bills
- Medical records

This Fact Sheet is not intended as legal advice. It is advisable to consult an immigration attorney to determine whether you are eligible for any benefit under immigration law or policy.

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