



What to Do If You Get a Notice to Appear for Immigration Court

This fact sheet talks about what to do if you get a document in the mail called a “Notice to Appear” for immigration court. It is sent by the Department of Homeland Security. It means the government is trying to deport you.

To read this fact sheet in Spanish, go to:

lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/what-do-if-you-get-notice-appear-immigration-court



This fact sheet was developed in collaboration with the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, The Advocates for Human Rights, and the Volunteer Lawyers Network. It was supported by funding from the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services.



What a Notice to Appear Tells You

What is a Notice to Appear?

A Notice to Appear or NTA is a document you might get from the Department of Homeland Security. It means the government is trying to deport you and **you must go to court**. A Notice to Appear says why the government thinks you should be deported. It should also say the **date** and **place of your first hearing**.

If I get a Notice to Appear, does that mean I have an asylum hearing?



No. A Notice to Appear **only** means the government is trying to deport you.

- It **does not** mean that an asylum or other relief process has started. If you want asylum or another type of relief, you must apply for it.
- It **does not** mean that you have permission to work in the United States. If you want to work, you must apply for permission.

What does a Notice to Appear look like?

There is a sample Notice to Appear in this fact sheet. A Notice to Appear gives four pieces of information.

- 1. Information about you.** It will say your name, date of birth, address, and phone number. It will also say your A-Number or “Alien Registration Number.” This number is very important. You will need it during your immigration case. Keep it in a safe place.
- 2. Reason the government wants to deport you.** It will say what part of the law the government thinks you broke.
- 3. Place, date, and time of your first hearing.**
- 4. Department of Homeland Security officer signature.** The person who sent the Notice to Appear must sign and date the document.

In removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act:

Subject ID: _____

FINS: _____

File No. _____

Your A-Number or "Alien Registration Number"

DOB: Your date of birth

Event No: _____

In the Matter of:

Respondent: Your full name currently residing

at: The address where you live and your phone number

(Number, street, city and ZIP code)

(Area code and phone number)

- 1. You are an arriving alien.
- 2. You are an alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or paroled.
- 3. You have been admitted to the United States, but are removable for the reasons stated below.

If box 3 is marked, the government says you entered the U.S. with papers, but are not here legally now.

The Department of Homeland Security alleges that you:

The facts against you will be listed here. It might say that you are not a citizen of the United States and the country you are from. It will also say what part of the law the government says you broke.

- This notice is being issued after an asylum officer has found that the respondent has demonstrated a credible fear of persecution or torture.
- Section 235(b)(1) order was vacated pursuant to: 8CFR 208.30(f)(2) 8CFR 235.3(b)(5)(iv)

YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before an immigration judge of the United States Department of Justice at:

Address of the court where you need to go for your hearing

(Complete Address of Immigration Court, including Room Number, if any)

on Date of your hearing at Time of your hearing to show why you should not be removed from the United States based on the charge(s) set forth above.

4.

Signature of the Department of Homeland Security Officer who sent you the Notice to Appear

(Signature and Title of Issuing Officer)

Date: Date your Notice to Appear was sent

City and state where the Officer works

(City and State)

See reverse for important information.

What law could the government allege (say) I broke?

Example: Mateo's Notice to Appear

The government might say you arrived in the United States without papers. In this example, Mateo illegally crossed the border from Mexico to the United States.



Box #2 was checked. "You are an alien present in the United States who has not been admitted or paroled."

The Department of Homeland Security alleges that:

- You are not a citizen or national of the United States.
- You are a citizen of Mexico.
- You arrived in the United States at El Paso, Texas, on January 8, 2024.
- You were not admitted or paroled after inspection by an immigration officer.

Example: Hani's Notice to Appear

The government might say you arrived in the United States with papers (like a temporary visa) but are not here legally now. The government might say that your temporary visa ended and you did not apply for permanent status. They might say you did not follow the rules to keep your temporary visa. Or they might say you committed a crime that means you cannot keep your temporary visa. In this example, Hani came to the United States on a student visa but had to drop out after six months. Being in school is one of the rules of keeping her student visa.



Box #3 was marked. "You have been admitted to the United States, but are removable for the reasons stated below."

The Department of Homeland Security alleges that:

- You are not a citizen or national of the United States.
- You are a citizen of Somalia.
- You were issued a student visa on July 1, 2023.
- You were admitted to the United States at John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York - 4701 on August 15, 2023.
- You are not enrolled in school. You did not comply with the terms of your student visa.



What to Do After You Get a Notice to Appear



Check to make sure the date and time of your hearing is correct.

- **By Phone.** Call the EOIR hotline at **1-800-898-7180**. Enter your A-Number or “Alien Registration Number.” (Go to immigrationhelp.org to find your A-Number.) Use the menu of options to check the date and time of your hearing. The hotline is in English and Spanish. Push 2 for help in Spanish.
- **Online.** Go to: acis.eoir.justice.gov. Enter your A-Number. Look at “Next Hearing Information” and “Court Contact Information.”

Your Notice to Appear may not be in the phone or online system immediately. If you received a Notice to Appear but the phone or online system says you do not have a hearing scheduled, **follow the instructions on the notice and go to your hearing.** Keep checking the phone or online system once a day for updates.

02



Make sure that your name, date of birth (DOB), and address are correct.

- **If your address is wrong on your Notice to Appear,** report your new address to the Immigration Court, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Department of Homeland Security. LawHelpMN has a fact sheet to help you report a change of address. Go to: lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/reporting-change-address-immigration-court
- **If you moved to a different state and you want to move your immigration hearing to a different court,** file a motion to change your venue. LawHelpMN has a fact sheet to help you change your venue. Go to: lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/how-move-your-immigration-hearing-different-court-change-your-venue
- **If your name or date of birth (DOB) is wrong,** tell the judge at your first hearing.

03



Talk to a lawyer if you can.

The government might send a list of free lawyers with your Notice to Appear. You can call them. You can also search for free lawyers on LawHelpMN.org.

Free lawyers are in high demand. You are not guaranteed a free lawyer just because you ask for one. You can also hire a private lawyer if you can afford one. **If you are able to meet with a lawyer, they will want to see your Notice to Appear.**

If you do not find a lawyer, you still need to go to your first hearing. You can speak for yourself if you cannot find a lawyer to help you.

04



Make copies.

Your Notice to Appear is an important document. Make copies or take a picture with your phone. Keep it in a safe place.

05



Bring it to your first hearing.

The judge will ask you if you received a Notice to Appear. It can be helpful to have it with you. Go to lawhelpmn.org or scan the QR code for a fact sheet about what you can expect the first time you go to immigration court.

