

TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

This section is for individuals who may receive Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to remain in the United States because the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has found their home countries to be dangerous places.

What countries have been designated under the TPS law? (Please note that this changes over time)

- El Salvador
- Guinea
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Liberia
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Syria
- Yemen

What requirements must you meet to receive TPS?

1. You must file an Application for Temporary Protected Status (“[I-821](#)”) during the open initial registration or re-registration period, or you meet the requirements for late initial filing during any extension of your country’s TPS designation. As of December 2012, the deadlines for all countries have passed. The only applications being accepted are for people seeking to renew their TPS status.
2. You must prove that you have been continuously living in the United States since the day that your country was [designated as dangerous](#). (For example for Haiti, you must prove that you were here since July 23, 2011).
3. You must prove that you have not been convicted of a felony or two misdemeanors.

How can you receive TPS?

- If you are in removal proceedings, the immigration judge or the Board of Immigration Appeal may grant you TPS.
- If you are not in removal proceedings, you must submit your Form I-821 to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) for processing.

What benefits do you get if you are granted TPS?

- You cannot be removed from the United States.
- You cannot be detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Customs and Border Protection.
- You can obtain a work permit and work legally.
- You may be able to travel outside of the United States by getting a travel authorization document. However, travel to your home country is not recommended.

Be aware that TPS does expire. You must re-register during each re-registration period in order to keep the benefits provided by TPS.

Warning: If you apply for TPS and you are not eligible, and if you do not have lawful status, you could be placed in removal proceedings.