



## How to try to close US immigration proceedings now that you are in Canada

### Step 1: Change your address

If you want to inform the US authorities that you have left the country and are now in Canada, you can inform all three of the US immigration agencies below of your new address:

#### 1. Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) – Immigration Court

EOIR Immigration court is one of the government agencies that decides whether certain immigrants can stay in the United States. [Visit the EOIR website to check if you are in EOIR immigration proceedings](#), to check the status of your case, and to confirm the location of the court handling your case.

Even if you have a Notice to Appear (NTA) with a specific hearing date listed, check this EOIR system to confirm it was filed with the court. You can also access [this website to better understand your US immigration process](#).

If you are not in the EOIR system you do not need to file a change of address with EOIR.

Online: [You can submit a change of address \(Form EOIR-33\) online](#). You must have a **valid email** address and phone number. Once EOIR has changed your address, you will be notified by email.

By paper:

- Submit an EOIR-33 form to the immigration court handling your case. [Access the paper form](#), print it and fill it out. You might also have received a copy of this form from US immigration authorities. This form must be sent in the mail. You can send it with a copy of your Canadian Refugee Protection Claim Document to prove that you are in Canada.
- If you submit the address change to EOIR by paper, you must also send a copy to the lawyer for the US Government, the Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA). [Find the address for the correct OPLA office](#). Keep copies.

## 2. US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

USCIS is the US government agency that processes many immigration applications. If you were in affirmative asylum proceedings or had any application pending with USCIS when you left the US, you should change your address with USCIS.

Online: You can submit a change of address (Form AR-11) online if you have a [USCIS Online Account](#). Once you have created your account you can log-in and electronically file Form AR-11.

By paper:

- [Use the Form AR-11](#). Print it and mail it to the address noted on the form. Additional information and instructions about this process can be found [here](#).

## 3. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

ICE is the government agency that enforces immigration laws within the United States. ICE acts as the immigration “police.” They can detain people who they think violated immigration laws. They schedule check-ins in person, via email or by phone to confirm that people are going to their immigration court hearings and to make sure that they have current addresses for people they are supervising.

If you have a Notice to Appear (NTA) or were in the ICE check-in and supervision system when you left the United States, [you can submit a change of address to ICE online](#).

## Step 2: Try to close any open applications

Even if you change your address with the agencies listed above, you might still receive a removal order *in absentia*. Below are some additional steps to try and close your US immigration case before a judge issues a removal order to you. Try the steps that are applicable to your situation.

Get assistance from a US immigration lawyer:

**If your immigration proceedings are still pending**, a lawyer may be able to help you file for voluntary departure. [See this directory of free or low-cost lawyers in the US](#).

Inform Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that you have left the US:

**If you have a Notice to Appear (NTA)**, contact the ICE/OPLA office that filed this document. You can also send it to the office that you reported to if this is different. You can send them a letter informing them that you have left the US and made a refugee claim in Canada. You can attach your Canadian refugee ID (brown paper) and any other documents that prove you are in Canada and have made a claim (Acknowledgement of Claim, Confirmation of Referral to the Immigration and Refugee Board etc.).

Ask if you can attend your EOIR immigration court hearing virtually:

**If you have a hearing scheduled at the immigration courts in the US**, you can contact the court to see if you can attend virtually from Canada. At the hearing, you can inform the judge of your departure to Canada. A judge may allow you to withdraw your application for admission to the US. [Learn more about virtual hearings](#).

Contact the Asylum Office:

**If you have a pending asylum claim in the US**, you can write to the asylum office that is handling your case. If you do not show up for your asylum interview, you might be issued a Notice to Appear (NTA) and put into EOIR immigration court removal proceedings. [See this list of US asylum offices](#).

Withdraw any USCIS applications:

**If you have filed for benefits with USCIS (work permit or asylum application)**, you can write to USCIS to advise them that you are outside the US and want to withdraw your application.

You can make this request in your USCIS Online Account. If you do not yet have one, [learn how to create this account](#). Once you have created your account you can log-in and electronically file your request.

You can also call the USCIS Contact Center at 212-620-3418 to make this request. [Find more information about the USCIS Contact Center](#).

You can also refer to the address on any USCIS receipt notice you received on your pending benefits applications and write and send on paper a request to withdraw the application(s) to the specific USCIS office processing your application. [See the directory of USCIS offices](#).

→For more information, see "[What you need to know about leaving the US](#)" from the NY Legal Aid Society