

North Dakota Civil Surgeons

Understanding the Role of the Civil Surgeon and Adjustment of Status for Refugees

Refugees who have been physically present in the U.S. for one year may complete medical evaluations (examination) to adjust their status and obtain a “Green Card” or Legal Permanent Residence status. The medical evaluation for refugees differs from that of immigrants; therefore, confirming the individual's legal status is critical before proceeding.

The medical immigration examination must be completed by a civil surgeon (a physician designated by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or USCIS) or their designee. The medical director of local public health may complete the form for applicants through a blanket waiver designation with refugee status only. This blanket waiver designation does not extend to Asylees or Cuban/Haitian/Afghan parolee applicants, nor does it extend to any other applicant for adjustment of status. Regardless of the status, the [USCIS Form I-693](#) must be completed, signed, and submitted in a sealed envelope for all applicants.

Validity of the USCIS Form I-693

The I-693 form must be filed with USCIS no more than 60 days before filling the Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status.

The I-693 form must be filed with USCIS within 60 days of signature. It is valid for two years, only when filed within 60 days of signature. Once accepted, it is then valid for up to two years while the USCIS adjudicates the application. Forms filed after 60 days of signature or completed incorrectly are invalid, and the application will be rejected.

Note: Under certain circumstances, USCIS may provide all applicants temporary waivers from the aforementioned requirements.

For Refugees

- Refugees who arrived to the U.S. **without** a Class A condition will be required to update **vaccinations only**. The civil surgeon or the public health designee must complete the I-693 Form, Part 10. Vaccination Record.
- Refugees who only need to complete the vaccinations, must complete and submit the following sections of the I-693 form.
 - Part 1: Information About you.
 - Part 2: Applicant's Statement, Contact Information, Certification, and Signature.
 - Part 3: Interpreter's Contact Information, Certification, and Signature- If an

interpreter is utilized.

- Part 4: Contact Information, Declaration, and Signature of the person preparing the application, if other than the applicant.
 - Part 5: Applicant's Identification Information.
 - Part 7: Civil Surgeon's Contact Information, Certification, and Signature.
 - Part 10: Vaccination Record
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- Refugees who arrived to the U.S. **with** a Class A condition must complete the entire medical immigration examination, including vaccinations. The examination must be conducted by a civil surgeon.

For Immigrants, including Asylees and Parolees

- A complete medical immigration examination is required by a civil surgeon.

North Dakota Civil Surgeon list:

Note: The exam and administrative fees are not covered by insurance and vary between civil surgeons. Contact the clinic for details.

Family Health Care
Dr. Napoleon Espejo
301 NP Avenue
Fargo, ND, 58103
701.271.3344

Essentia Health
Dr. John Mickelson
1100 19th Avenue N
Fargo, ND, 58102
701.364.5757

University of North Dakota, Center for Family Medicine
Dr. Jeffrey Hostetter
Dr. Swami Gade
701 E. Rosser Avenue
Bismarck, ND, 58501
701.751.9500



Health & Human Services

Sanford Health- Occupational Medicine

Dr. Krissondra Klop

2603 E. Broadway Avenue

Bismarck, ND, 58501

701.323.5222

Trinity Medical Group, Health Center- Medical Arts

Dr. Howard Reeve

400 E. Burdick Expressway

Minot, ND, 58701

701.857.7840

For more information:

[I-693, Report of Medical Examination and Vaccination Record](#)

[CDC Technical Instruction for Civil Surgeons- Medical History and Physical Examination](#)

[CDC Technical Instructions for Civil Surgeons- Vaccinations](#)

[CDC Technical Instructions for Civil Surgeons- Tuberculosis](#)

Questions regarding Medical Immigration Examination for Refugees or Immigrants
(Asylees or Parolees).

Contact:

Dipshikha Sharma, MBA

State Refugee Health Coordinator

ND Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Services

Email: disharma@nd.gov, Phone: 701.298.4663