Global Immigration alert

October 2025

United States

Department of Homeland Security implements immigration parole fee

Executive summary

On 16 October 2025, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a notice in the Federal Register advising that the agency will begin assessing and collecting a $1,000 immigration parole fee. The new fee is effective immediately and will apply to any foreign national with a filed or pending request for parole as the fee will attach at the time such requests are granted, regardless of when the underlying application or request was submitted.

Background and analysis

A grant of parole allows the recipient to temporarily enter or remain in the United States. Form I-131, Application for Travel Documents, Parole Documents, and Arrival/Departure Records, can be filed with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to request parole from within the United States and from abroad, as well as to apply for an Advance Parole travel document.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (P.L. 119-21), established several new fees relating to immigration enforcement and the administration of immigration programs. The Federal Register notice states that implementation of the immigration parole fee specifically was delayed because DHS required additional time to consider possible exceptions.

DHS has now established 10 exceptions to the fee. Notably, an exception is stated for foreign nationals with a pending application for adjustment of status (Form I-485) who are returning to the United States after temporary travel abroad and present a valid Advance Parole travel document to Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Other exceptions include foreign nationals with a "close family member" who is deceased or whose death is imminent and would be unable to arrive in the United States prior to the funeral or the passing of the family member if they were to follow the normal visa application process, as well as foreign nationals requiring treatment for a medical emergency under certain conditions. There does not appear to be an exception available for foreign nationals granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) who seek to return to the United States after international travel based on a valid Advance Parole travel document.

The notice states that an exception to the fee will apply if the foreign national "establishes to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security that the alien is being paroled because of one of the enumerated exceptions" and appears to grant "discretion" to the department in this determination. A complete list of the exceptions can be found in the notice: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/10/16/2025-19564/immigration-parole-fee-required-by-hr-1-reconciliation-bill.

Foreign nationals who are unable to establish that they qualify for one of the exceptions will be required to pay the $1,000 fee in order to receive a grant of parole.

What this means

Effective immediately, the immigration parole fee will be assessed and collected as follows:

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- CBP will collect the fee at the port-of-entry from foreign nationals who request parole into the United States or who CBP, in its discretion, determines ought to be granted parole under Section 212(d)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA).
- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will collect the fee when it grants parole to foreign nationals in the U.S. under INA Section 212(d)(5)(A).
- USCIS will collect the fee prior to final adjudication of Form I-131 once it decides to favorably adjudicate an application for parole in place or re-parole. USCIS will issue a notice advising the applicant that approval of Form I-131 is conditioned upon payment of the immigration parole fee.

We will continue to monitor and share future developments. For additional information, or if you wish to discuss this further, please contact your EY Law LLP professional or Mehlman Jacobs LLP professional.

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