

## **The U.S. now has even more leeway to start deportation proceedings for immigrants**

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In light of recent USCIS policy changes regarding denials and deportations, the following steps may help you prepare for adverse actions when requesting an immigration benefit.

Trump administration guidelines for summoning legal and undocumented immigrants before an immigration judge to start deportation procedures will expand again starting on Nov. 19.

The U.S. Immigration and Citizenship Services (USCIS) recently announced that its officials will have more leeway to issue so-called Notices to Appear (NTA) if an immigration benefit request has been denied.

USCIS started to implement a new protocol on Oct. 1 that [expanded the number of reasons](#) for issuing NTAs — a document issued to non-citizens instructing them to appear in immigration court. The NTAs traditionally mark the beginning of a deportation procedure.

USCIS has the legal authority to issue NTAs and has been so authorized for some time.

The [new measure](#) that takes effect next week will affect foreigners who entered the U.S. legally, and applied for an immigration benefit such as a visa. But now if their application, petition or benefit request gets turned down, their presence in the United States becomes immediately unlawful.

Previously, an immigrant had more time to re-petition or pursue other avenues to stay in the United States under a different status.

“If applicants, beneficiaries, or self-petitioners who are denied are no longer in a period of authorized stay and do not depart the United States, USCIS may issue an NTA,” the agency [announcement](#) said.

Starting Nov. 19, USCIS may issue NTAs based on denials of the following visas:

- [I-914/I-914A, Application for T Non immigrant Status](#) for victims of a severe form of trafficking.
- [I-918/I-918A, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status](#) for victims of qualifying criminal activity.
- [I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow\(er\), or Special Immigrant](#).
- [I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petitions](#) for spouses and/or unmarried children under 21 years of age of refugees.