

USCIS Furloughs

I read an article stating that USCIS needs emergency funding or it will furlough 70% of its staff. How will this affect my family member's case? Will they lose their temporary status before they can renew their work permit or travel permit? Is there anything in place like an automatic extension of their work permit or travel permit?

The Facts:

- On May 15, USCIS requested emergency funding of \$1.2 billion, otherwise, it would need to furlough employees for up to 90 days. The furloughs are expected to start August 3, 2020.
- USCIS is a self-funded agency, so this may result in filing-fee increases proposed earlier this year.
- While ALL cases continue to be processed, USCIS is already experiencing delays with biometrics appointments and final interviews, since there were no face-to-face appointments between February and June 2020.

Once an adjustment-of-status case has been filed, the family member's status is "pending." Family members may submit applications to renew their work permit (Form I-765) or travel permit (Form I-131) in adjustment-of-status cases where cases are still pending after the permit expiration dates. Generally, you should not file a renewal within 180 days of the initial work permit or travel permit expiring. For family adjustment of-status cases, there is no renewal filing fee.

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