



# MAINTENANCE OF LPR STATUS, HERE AND ABROAD

Everything you need to know about maintaining lawful permanent residency. (In thirty minutes or less.)

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## CONTENTS

Maintenance of Permanent Residency  
Protecting against Loss of Status  
Planning for Travel Abroad  
Re-entry Permits for long term assignments (I-131)  
Unexpected Extended Absences  
SB-1 Returning Resident Visa  
Obtaining an SB-1 Returning Resident Visa  
Obtaining a Travel Document (I-131A)  
Travelling with an I-90 Receipt

# MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT RESIDENCY

## USCIS DEFINITION

### **Maintaining Permanent Residence**

Once you become a lawful permanent resident (Green Card holder), you maintain permanent resident status until you:

- Apply for and complete the naturalization process; or
- Lose or abandon your status.

There are several ways that you can lose your status as a lawful permanent resident.

# NOTHING PERMANENT ABOUT BEING A PERMANENT RESIDENCE

There are many reasons USCIS can revoke lawful permanent resident status:

- Commission of certain crimes
- Marriage fraud
- **Extended absences outside of the US**

- Terms used today:
  - LPR = lawful permanent resident
  - Permanent resident
  - These are used interchangeably throughout this presentation

## NOTHING PERMANENT ABOUT BEING A PERMANENT RESIDENCE

Permanent residents can put their green cards at risk if they:

- Travel abroad too often or for too long
- Return trips to the US are too few or too short
- Or other acts that call into question their intent to make the US their permanent home

5

## MAINTENANCE OF PERMANENT RESIDENCY - CONCEPTS

When an LPR travels outside of the United States they need to be cognizant of the following:

- Absences of less than 180 days = no presumption of abandonment of permanent residence
- Absences of more than 180 days, but less than 1 year = there is a rebuttable presumption that you may have abandoned permanent residence
- Absences of more than 1 year = automatic loss of LPR status unless appropriate steps were taken prior to departure to preserve status
- USCIS takes the position that an absence of more than one year invalidates a green card, and that residency has been abandoned.

6

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