



January 25, 2019

CLIENT ADVISORY: USCIS ADDS ASYLUM APPLICATIONS TO ITS CASE STATUS TOOL

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) recently added the asylum application classification to its online Case Status tool. This means that you can now check your individual case status using the Receipt Number you received after filing your asylum application with USCIS. Asylum Receipt Numbers start with three letters, for example, “ZCH” or “ZHN.” Making case-specific asylum application information available online is a departure from prior procedure requiring applicants to send written inquiries to the Asylum Office with jurisdiction over their case, or to visit the Asylum Office in person.¹

The purpose of the Case Status tool is to allow petitioners and applicants the ability to access case history, next steps, and the most recent action on their case from a computer or smart phone. For asylum matters, the Case Status tool may also include:

- general information about the Asylum Employment Authorization Document (EAD) Clock,
- specific information about the length of time your application has been pending, and
- specific information about the status of your individual EAD clock.

If you wish to save your receipt number for easy access later, USCIS provides the option of creating a free online account. The online account also permits the user to sign-up for email or mobile “alerts” for changes in the online case information.

Please be advised that USCIS’s online Case Status tool is not updated in real-time and ***cannot be relied upon*** when seeking to verify important information about your case. To receive accurate and timely information regarding the current status of your case and next steps in your asylum process, please refer to correspondence directly from your attorney. As your immigration counsel, we will inform you as soon as we receive any case-related information or notices from USCIS relative to your pending asylum application.

Contact Information

If you have questions about the content of this notice, please contact the attorney of record for your case. If someone you know needs assistance with an immigration matter, our general contact information for our Houston and Detroit offices is:

Telephone (855) 428-3762
Email contact@bzlawusa.com.

¹ See <https://www.uscis.gov/unassigned/fag/how-can-i-find-out-status-my-asylum-application> (last updated Oct. 29, 2008).