



## **ASYLUM SEEKERS** **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **How Do I Get My Personal Property After I Am Released From Detention?**

When you entered detention, an officer took your property and gave you two receipts. Form G-589 describes personal property, including documents and cash. Form I-77 is a ticket for your luggage and describes what's inside. When you left detention, you and the officer should have checked that you received everything written on the G-589 and I-77 forms. There are three reasons why you might not leave with all your property:

- You gave a shipping address for large luggage. The address where your luggage was sent and the date it was sent should also be written on the appropriate I-77 form.
- ICE may keep your original documents in your A-file (the file with your case information) until your case is over. If your case is over, ICE may reserve the right to appeal, and keep your documents through the appeal process.
- Something was lost.

### **Do I Have the Right to Work?**

Asylum seekers do not automatically have the right to work. You may apply for a work permit, or "Employment Authorization Document," (EAD) 150 days after you have applied for asylum. If approved, you will be eligible to receive your work permit 180 days after you applied for asylum. If you are given a "recommended approval for a grant of asylum" before the 150 days, you can apply for a work permit immediately.

### **Can I Get a State Identification (ID) Card?**

Each state makes its own rules as to whether asylum seekers are allowed to get state IDs. If you are eligible to apply for a state ID, call your local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office to know what documents you will need to bring. Depending on your state, you may also be allowed to get a driver's license. You cannot drive in the U.S. unless you have a driver's license. Driving without a license and driving while under the influence of alcohol can both lead to your arrest and deportation. Because it takes a long time to learn to drive and to obtain your license, you may want to get a state ID first, and worry about driving later.

### **Can I Apply for a Social Security Number?**

Asylum seekers can apply for a SSN, but will receive a restricted Social Security card, which will state either "VALID FOR WORK ONLY WITH DHS AUTHORIZATION," or "NOT VALID FOR WORK," depending on whether you are eligible to work.



## What is the Selective Service, and Am I Required to Sign Up?

All men living in the U.S. between ages 18 and 25, regardless of immigration status, must register for selective service. This is not a military draft. Registering tells the government that you are available to serve in the U.S. armed forces if the government ever ordered a military draft. However, a draft is highly unlikely.

## Can I Register My Child in School?

In the U.S., every child, regardless of their immigration status, has the right to a free public education kindergarten through grade 12. If you are the parent or guardian of a child under the age of 18, by law you are required to send your child to school. Some states require school attendance only through age 16. Visit your state's Board of Education website for more information.

## Do I Have Access to Healthcare?

Asylum seekers are also unfortunately not eligible for as many healthcare options as those who have won their cases, but do have some options. You are eligible to receive the following medical services:

- Medical assistance for emergency care, which includes emergency Medicaid, emergency room care, and labor and delivery.
- Public health assistance for immunizations (shots to prevent diseases) and testing and treatment for communicable diseases.

Some states have discounted programs for people who do not make enough money, called Medicaid. Asylum seekers are usually not eligible for Medicaid, but you should check with your state, because each state makes its own rules. Some states make Medicaid available to asylum seekers who are children or pregnant women.

### Additional Tips on How to Find Healthcare:

Federally qualified health centers provide medical care to individuals regardless of immigration status, and often work on a sliding scale. That means you pay only what you are able based on your income. ASYLUM SEEKERS 43 Go to [www.bphc.hrsa.gov](http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov) and type your zip code in the "find a Health Center" box to find a health center.