



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.

3

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

4

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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Title search: Maintenance of LPR Status, Here and Abroad

Also available as part of the eCourse

[Lawful Permanent Resident Status: Maintenance and Forms of Relief](#)

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