



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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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.

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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

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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

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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.

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