

# How to Apply for Asylum in Immigration Court (Using the Defensive Process)



This fact sheet helps you apply for asylum. It explains the process and how to fill out the right forms. It also shares what type of documents you need to gather to prove you are eligible for asylum.

There are different asylum application processes for different people. If you use the wrong process, your application is denied. **You should only use this fact sheet if you are an adult and you are in removal proceedings.** To find out which asylum application process you should use, go to: <https://www.lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/how-decide-if-you-can-apply-asylum-united-states>

This fact sheet was developed in collaboration with the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, The Advocates for Human Rights, and the Volunteer Lawyers Network. It was supported by funding from the State of Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Special thanks to The Advocates for Human Rights and the Volunteer Lawyers Network for generously allowing us to draw from their asylum guides in creating this resource.



# The Defensive Process for Asylum

## How do I apply for asylum?

There are 9 steps to apply for asylum in Immigration Court.

You must complete your application (steps 01 – 05) **within 1 year** of your last entry to the United



### STEP 01

Fill out Form I-589.



### STEP 02

Pay the \$100 application fee online. Then gather and prepare documents to send with your application.



### STEP 03

Make three copies of your application.



### STEP 04

File 1 copy of your asylum application with the Immigration Court. You must deliver it to the court where your hearing is scheduled.



### STEP 05

Deliver 1 copy of your asylum application to the government lawyer or “OPLA office.”



### STEP 06

Go to your biometrics appointment, if necessary.



## STEP 07

Go to your Master Calendar Hearing with the Immigration Judge.

## STEP 08

Go to your Individual Merits Hearing with the Immigration Judge about your asylum application.

## STEP 09

The Immigration Judge makes a decision about your asylum application.



Scan me  
with your phone

### **Tell the Immigration Court and OPLA office if you move during the asylum application process.**

LawHelpMN has a fact sheet that tells you how to update your address with the Immigration Court. Scan the QR code or go to: [lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/reporting-change-address-immigration-court](https://www.lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/reporting-change-address-immigration-court)



## Ask for help with your application if you are not comfortable using English.

### **The Asylum Application Form**

The I-589 Form must be completed in English. Someone else can help you fill out the form. This might be a family member, friend, or lawyer. If someone helps you fill out the form, they are called a “preparer.” They need to fill out and sign “Part E” on the I-589 Form.

### **Supporting Documents**

You may need to send supporting documents with your application. They must be submitted in English. If the original document is not in English, someone must translate it. You do not need to use a professional interpreter or translator. A bilingual family member, friend, or acquaintance can do it if they are qualified. Anyone who translates a document must complete a translator form. Send the translator form with your application.

Get a blank translator form at:

[lawhelpmn.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/Immigration Certificate of Translation.pdf](http://lawhelpmn.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/Immigration%20Certificate%20of%20Translation.pdf)

### **Court Hearings**

You need to go to court for a hearing during the asylum application process. Ask the judge for an **interpreter** in the language you are most comfortable using.

## STEP 01

Fill out Form I-589.



Scan the QR code or go to [uscis.gov/i-589](https://uscis.gov/i-589) to get a blank copy of the form. There are instructions in the “How to Fill Out Form I-589” part of this fact sheet.



Scan me  
with your phone

**You must fill out the most recent edition of the form.** The Court will not accept your application if you use an old version of the form. The form edition is written on the bottom left corner of each page on the form. Example: It could say, “Edition 01/20/25”. **You must fill out the form in English.**

## STEP 02

Gather and prepare documents to send with your application.



You must **send 5 things** with your asylum application:

- Cover sheet.** This tells the court who you are and that you are applying for asylum. There is a sample cover sheet in the “Sample Cover Sheet” part of this fact sheet.
- Completed and signed Form I-589.**
- Filing fee payment receipt.** Go to: [epay.eoir.justice.gov](https://epay.eoir.justice.gov). Enter your A-number and select “Court - Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for withholding of Removal - Initial Applications” as the filing type. Complete the payment process. Print the receipt to send with your application.

- **Copy of 1 document that proves your identity, if you have one.** The document must have been issued by the United States or other country's government. If the document is not in English, you must get it translated. **Do not send original documents, only send copies.** Examples of acceptable documents include:
  - Passport that shows your picture, name, and date of birth. Copy and send **every page** of your passport.
  - Birth certificate if it has your photo on it. **OR** a birth certificate **AND** a photo ID.
  - Visa issued by a foreign consulate.
  - National ID document with photo and/or fingerprint.

**Submit your asylum application even if you don't have one of these ID documents.** You can send an ID document later.

- **Certificate of Service.** This tells the court when and how you sent a copy of your asylum application to the government lawyer. There is a sample certificate of service in the "Sample Certificate of Service" part of this fact sheet.

**You may also send any evidence you have that supports why you are applying for asylum.**

Evidence is documents and photos that help prove your story. This might be medical records, police reports, or photos. It could also be reports from a human rights organization about violence in your home country.

You can also send evidence later, but you must send it by the deadline the court gives you. LawHelpMN has a fact sheet about how to prepare evidence and testimony for Immigration Court. Scan the QR code or go to:

[lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/preparing-evidence-and-testimony-immigration-court](http://lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/preparing-evidence-and-testimony-immigration-court)



Scan me  
with your phone

All documents must be submitted in English. If the original document is not in English, someone must translate it. You do not need to use a professional interpreter or translator. A bilingual family member, friend, or acquaintance can do it if they are qualified. They must complete a translator form. Get a blank translator form at:

[lawhelpmn.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/Immigration Certificate of Translation.pdf](http://lawhelpmn.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/Immigration%20Certificate%20of%20Translation.pdf)

## STEP 03

Make 3 copies of your application.



Make three copies of your cover sheet, completed and signed Form I-589, identity documents, certificate of service, and any evidence you send with your application. Keep 1 **copy** of the cover sheet, signed Form I-589, and certificate of service for your records. Keep your **original** identity document and evidence for your records.

## STEP 04

File 1 copy of your asylum application with the Immigration Court.



There are 2 ways you can file your asylum application with the court. You can mail your asylum application to court or you can deliver it in person. **You must deliver the asylum application to the Immigration Court where your hearing was scheduled.**

## HOW TO FIND THE COURT ADDRESS

Call or go online to get the correct court name and address where your hearing is scheduled.

- **By Phone.** Call the EOIR hotline at **1-800-898-7180**. The hotline is in English and Spanish. Push 2 for help in Spanish. Enter your A-Number or “Alien Registration Number.” (Go to [us-immigration.com](https://www.us-immigration.com) to learn how to find your A-Number.)
- **Online.** Go to: [acis.eoir.justice.gov](https://acis.eoir.justice.gov). Enter your A-Number. It tells you where you have a hearing scheduled.

## HOW TO SEND YOUR APPLICATION BY MAIL

- **Send:**
  - The **original** cover sheet, signed Form I-589, application fee payment receipt, and certificate of service. **1 copy** of your identity document(s) and any evidence. The court keeps these documents.
  - An **extra copy** of your application and a pre-stamped envelope addressed to you. Ask the court to date-stamp the copy and send it back to you. This copy is for your records.
- **Tell the person at the shipping service that you need to track your application** when you mail it. Purchase tracking so that you know when your application is delivered. Make sure to get proof or a receipt when it is delivered.

## HOW TO DELIVER YOUR APPLICATION IN PERSON

Go to the physical location of the court. The court has a clerk window where you can ask questions and drop off documents. Bring:

- The **original** cover sheet, signed Form I-589, application fee payment receipt, and certificate of service. **1 copy** of your identity document and any evidence. The clerk keeps these documents.
- An **extra copy** of your application and a pre-stamped envelope addressed to you. Ask the clerk to time-stamp this copy and send it back to you. This copy is for your records.

## STEP 05

Deliver 1 copy of your asylum application to the government lawyer or “OPLA office.”



This is also called “serving the government lawyer.” Send 1 **copy** of your cover sheet, signed Form I-589, application fee payment receipt, certificate of service, identity document, and evidence.

This address is different from the court’s address. To find your OPLA office, **call the court where your hearing is scheduled**. Ask for the name and address of the OPLA office assigned to your court.

**Tell the person at the shipping service that you need to track your application.** Purchase tracking so that you know when your application is delivered. Make sure to get proof or a receipt when it is delivered.

## STEP 06

Go to your biometrics appointment, if necessary.



USCIS **might** mail you a letter that says you have a biometrics appointment. **Bring this letter with you to your appointment. Bring a photo ID to this appointment.**

USCIS takes your fingerprints during the biometrics appointment. You need to fill out the back of the biometrics form.

**It is very important that you go to this appointment.** If you are scheduled for more than one biometrics appointment, go to all of them. Call the number on the letter right away if you need to reschedule your appointment.

At your biometrics appointment, the government official stamps your appointment notice to prove that you went to the appointment. Keep a copy of the stamped notice for your records.

## STEP 07

Go to your Master Calendar Hearing with the Immigration Judge about your asylum application.



You get a letter from the Immigration Court after they receive your asylum application. The letter says you have a **Master Calendar Hearing**. It says the date, time, and place of your hearing.

During the Master Calendar Hearing, the Immigration Judge:

- **Reviews the status of your case** and any applications for relief you have filed, like asylum;
- **Asks you if you want a continuance** to find an attorney. A continuance is a short delay before they schedule your next hearing to give you time to do something.
- **Asks you to enter a plea**. The judge asks you to confirm or deny the information in the documents you received when you entered the United States. Tell the Judge if the information is incorrect.
- If you don't ask for a continuance, **the Immigration Judge schedules your Individual Merits Hearing**. The Individual Merits Hearing is where the Immigration Judge makes a decision about your asylum application.

If the judge mentions that you may not qualify for asylum or that you need to pursue asylum in another country, ask the judge for an opportunity to respond and consult with an attorney.

LawHelpMN has a fact sheet that explains what you can expect during a Master Calendar Hearing. Scan the QR code or go to: [lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/what-expect-first-time-you-go-immigration-court-minnesota](https://www.lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/what-expect-first-time-you-go-immigration-court-minnesota)



Scan me  
with your phone

## STEP 09

Go to your Individual Merits Hearing with the Immigration Judge about your asylum application.



At your Individual Merits Hearing, the Immigration Judge reviews the evidence for why you think you should get asylum. You have a chance to tell the Immigration Judge your story. The government lawyer also has a chance to say why they think you should not get asylum. You may have more than one hearing about your asylum application.

LawHelpMN has a fact sheet about how to prepare evidence and testimony for Immigration Court.

Scan the QR code or go to:

[lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/preparing-evidence-and-testimony-immigration-court](http://lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/preparing-evidence-and-testimony-immigration-court)



Scan me  
with your phone

## STEP 09

The Immigration Judge makes a decision.



The Immigration Judge tells you if your application for asylum was approved or denied. The Judge might tell you their decision during your hearing. They might also mail you a letter that tells you their decision. The judge could make 3 different decisions.

**The judge might approve your asylum application.** If this happens:

- You are eligible to apply for a new work permit that says you are an asylee. If you get this new work permit, use it even if you have an old permit. LawHelpMN has a fact that can help you apply for a work permit. Go to: [lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/how-get-permission-work-minnesota](http://lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/fact-sheet/how-get-permission-work-minnesota)

- You are eligible to apply for a Green Card in 1 year.
- If you have immediate family that need to derive, they can apply.
- You can go to the Social Security Office and get a Social Security Number. You can get an updated card without restrictions.
- Your I-94 form comes in the mail.

**The judge might grant withholding of removal OR protection under the Convention Against Torture (CAT).** If either of these things happens:

- You can stay in the United States but you are not eligible for any further status like a Green Card.
- You have to keep applying for and paying for work permits.
- You can't travel outside the United States.
- You can't bring other family members to the United States.
- You must go to ICE check-ins as long as you are in the United States.

**The judge might deny your application.** If this happens:

- You are ordered removed from the United States.
- You can appeal the Judge's decision. If you appeal, a removal order is not final until the Board of Immigration Appeals makes its decision.



**Both you and the Department of Homeland Security can appeal whatever the Immigration Judge decides.**

This means someone can ask the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to change the decision.

If the Immigration Judge grants you asylum, DHS can appeal to the BIA. If DHS appeals, you do not get the benefits of asylum until the BIA rules in your favor. If the BIA rules against you, you do not get asylum.

If the Immigration Judge denies you asylum, you can appeal the decision with the BIA. If you appeal, removal proceedings / immigration court proceedings are paused until the BIA makes their decision.

LawHelpMN has a fact sheet that explains how to appeal with the BIA:

<https://www.lawhelpmn.org/self-help-library/booklet/how-appeal-immigration-judge-decision>



# Sample Cover Sheet

Your Name: Write your full name here

Your Address: Write your address here

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW  
IMMIGRATION COURT

City and State: Write the city and state of your immigration court

In the Matters of:

Write your full name here  
(Your Name)

File No.: A Write your A Number here  
(Your Alien Registration Number)

Write your child or spouse's full name here  
(Name)

File No.: A Write your child or spouse's A Number here  
(Alien Registration Number)

Write your child or spouse's full name here  
(Name)

File No.: A Write your child or spouse's A Number here  
(Alien Registration Number)

Only include this part if you have a spouse or child included in your immigration court case.

Immigration Judge: Write the name of your immigration judge here

## RESPONDENT'S APPLICATION FOR ASYLUM



# Sample Certificate of Service

Write your full name here

(Respondent's Name)

Write your A-Number here

(Respondent's Alien Number)

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

On Write today's date here, I, Write your full name here,  
(date) (printed name of person signing below)

served a copy of this **Application for Asylum**,

and any attached pages to Write "Office of the Principal Legal Advisor for DHS – ICE" here  
(name of party served)

at the following address: Write the address of your OPLA office here  
(address of party served)

by Write how you will send a copy to the government lawyer (OPLA office). For example, "USPS priority mail."  
(method of service, for example overnight courier, hand-delivery, first class mail)

Sign your name here

(signature)

Write today's date here

(date)



# How to Fill Out Form I-589



## You must tell the truth in your asylum application.

**Only apply for asylum if you fear harm in your home country.** You must answer the questions on the asylum application form completely and honestly. If you lie on the application, you may never be able to apply for legal status in the United States again.

## General Tips for Filling Out the Form



### 01

You must complete the form in English.

### 02

Type your answers or write them in black ink.

### 03

If something on the form does not apply to you, write, "N/A" (Not Applicable) in the space. Do not leave blank boxes.

### 04

If you need more space to answer a question, write on the page labeled "Supplement B." Write your name and A-Number at the top of each Supplement B page. Sign and date each Supplement B page.

### 05

The instructions in this fact sheet are based on "Edition 01/20/25" of Form I-589. This fact sheet gives tips for filling out **some** of the questions. Make sure to read and answer **all** the questions. More instructions are at [uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/i-589instr.pdf](https://uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/i-589instr.pdf)



## Withholding of Removal Under the Convention Against Torture

There is a question at the top of the form on page 1. It asks if you also want to apply for protection under the convention against torture (CAT). **Check this box if you are afraid of being subjected to torture in your home country or any other country to which you may be returned.**

### Part A.I. Information About You

This part of Form I-589 has 25 questions about your identity, how you entered the U.S., and your current immigration status. The table has tips for filling out **some** questions in Part A.I.

Question	Instructions
<p><b>Question 1</b> Alien Registration Number (A-Number) <i>(if any)</i></p>	Go to <a href="http://us-immigration.com">us-immigration.com</a> to find your A-Number.
<p><b>Question 3</b> USCIS Online Account Number <i>(if any)</i></p>	<p>Your USCIS account number is different from your A-Number.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If you filed an application or petition using the USCIS online filing system,</b> you have an account number.</li> <li>• <b>If you filed applications or petitions on a paper form through a USCIS Lockbox facility,</b> you have an account number. It is on your Access Notice.</li> <li>• <b>If you do not have a USCIS Online Account Number or if you have not activated your account,</b> write “N/A” here.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Question 4</b> Complete Last Name</p>	If you have 2 last names, write both last names in the Complete Last Name box.
<p><b>Question 11</b> Marital Status</p>	If your marriage is not recognized by the government or legal system of the place where you were married, do not answer, “Married.”
<p><b>Question 19b</b> What is your current I-94 Number, if any?</p>	<p>Customs and Border Protection (CBP) might have given you a Form I-94 when you were admitted to the U.S. This form has your Arrival-Departure Record Number. To get a copy of your Form I-94:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>If you entered the U.S. at a seaport or airport after April 30, 2013,</b> go to: <a href="http://cbp.gov/i94">cbp.gov/i94</a></li> <li>• <b>File Form I-102</b> (Application for Replacement/Initial Nonimmigrant Arrival-Departure Record). Get Form I-102 at: <a href="http://uscis.gov/i-102">uscis.gov/i-102</a></li> </ul>

Question	Instructions
<b>Question 21</b> Passport Number or Travel Document Number	If you have a passport or travel document, write that number here. If you do not have a passport or travel document, write "N/A."

## Part A.II. Information About Your Spouse and Children

This part of Form I-589 asks questions about your spouse and children, if you have any. You must list your spouse and **all of your children**, including your biological children, stepchildren, and adopted children. Include your adult children even if they are married. Include your children that live in the United States and your children that live in other countries. Include children even if they never plan to come to the United States. Include children who have passed away. Include children you no longer speak to. **Use Supplement A at the end of form I-589 if you need more space to list your children.**

Question	Instructions
<b>Spouse Question 24</b> If in the U.S., is your spouse to be included in this application?	If you are granted asylum, your spouse could also be granted asylum if they live in the United States and are in removal proceedings. Your spouse only gets asylum too if you include them on this application.  Check "yes" if your spouse lives in the United States.
<b>Child Question 21</b> If in the U.S., is this child to be included in this application?	If you are granted asylum, any of your unmarried children under age 21 at the time of the application could also be granted asylum if they live in the United States and are in removal proceedings. These children only get asylum too if you include them on this application.  Check "yes" for every unmarried child under 21 who lives in the United States.

## Part A.III. Information About Your Background

This part of Form I-589 has 5 questions about where you lived in the past and where you have worked. It also has questions about your parents and siblings. Include as much information as you know. If you do not know the exact date for any of the questions, try to include the month and year. If you don't know the exact date, write "Approx." before the date. Example: "Approx. 05/1997". It is important to tell the truth. **Do NOT make up information.** If you do not know the answer to a question, write "unknown."

## Part B. Information About Your Application

This part of Form I-589 has 4 questions. This is where you say why you are applying for asylum. The questions ask why you are afraid to return home and what harm you have experienced. **If you need more space, you can write on Supplement B at the end of Form I-589. You can also attach additional pages with your complete story.** The table has tips for filling out Part B. It also has an example.

Question	Instructions	 <b>Example: What Nayeli Wrote On Her Form I-589</b>
<p><b>Question 1</b> Why are you applying for asylum?</p>	<p>Check all the reasons that apply to you, your family, friends, and colleagues.</p> <p>Check the “Tortue Convention” box here if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You are afraid of being tortured if your return home, <u>AND</u></li> <li>You the box on page 1 for “Withholding of Removal Under the Convention Against Torture”</li> </ul>	<p>Nayeli checked 2 boxes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Race</li> <li>Membership in a particular social group</li> </ul>
<p><b>Question 1A</b> Have you, your family, close friends, or colleagues ever experienced harm or mistreatment or threats in the past by anyone?</p>	<p>If you check “yes,” write what happened in as much detail as you can. Be certain about the facts you share. <b>Your story needs to be the same every time you tell it.</b> Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific facts. Don’t use general statements.</li> <li>Information about the person or group responsible for causing the harm.</li> <li>What you believe will happen if you return to your country.</li> </ul>	<p>My adopted brothers, Miguel and Nestor, were kidnapped by the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13). The gang members kept visiting our home to recruit my brothers. My brothers didn’t want to join. They were only 13 and 16 years-old. My mother brought us up Catholic. The gang would drive by and yell at us. They would threaten the family if my brothers didn’t join. In about 2022, 2 gang members grabbed my brothers and took them away. We begged the police to look for them, but the police didn’t help us. I think the police didn’t want</p>

Question	Instructions	 <p><b>Example: What Nayeli Wrote On Her Form I-589</b></p>
		<p>to help us because we are an indigenous family. My native language is Nawat and I only speak a little Spanish. The police didn't like indigenous people. My husband didn't want to cause problems, but I kept visiting the police. The police detained me in 2023. I was detained for a few hours. The police warned me to leave them alone.</p>
<p><b>Question 1B</b> Do you fear harm or mistreatment if you return to your home country?</p>	<p>Check "yes" if you fear being arrested, tortured, or killed if you return home. Describe in as much detail as you can what you think will happen. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who you are afraid of and why you think they will harm you. You don't have to state the name of the person or people you fear if you do not know their names. You do need to name the group the person belongs to if you know the group name.</li> <li>• Try to say how the harm is tied to your race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, political opinion, gender, or membership in a social group.</li> </ul>	<p>I fear that both the police and the gang will threaten and harm me because I will keep standing up to them and looking for my brothers. They are still young and my mother wants her children back.</p> <p>I also have a young son and I worry that the gang will also look to recruit him when he is old enough. I would stand up to the gang to protect my son too. It's hard to live in El Salvador. No one is there to help you. The police do not protect people from gangs, especially if you are indigenous.</p>

Question	Instructions	 <p><b>Example: What Nayeli Wrote On Her Form I-589</b></p>
<p><b>Question 2</b> Have you or your family members ever been accused, charged, arrested, detained, interrogated, convicted and sentenced, or imprisoned in any country other than the United States (including for an immigration law violation)?</p>	<p>If you checked “yes,” describe what happened in as much detail as possible.</p>	<p>I was detained for a few hours by the police in El Salvador because I kept asking about my missing brothers.</p> <p>I was briefly detained by Mexican Immigration when I crossed into their country without papers.</p>
<p><b>Question 3A</b> Have you or your family members ever belonged to or been associated with any organizations or groups...?</p>	<p>If you checked “yes,” explain what group. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you think you will be harmed because of your activities within a particular organization or movement. Describe what those activities are.</li> <li>• <b>If you belonged to or supported a para-military or guerrilla organization, or any armed group, consult an immigration attorney before completing this application.</b></li> </ul>	<p>My family is Pipil. We are one of the indigenous groups in El Salvador. My husband and I were born into it. My husband, my parents, my son, and I were all raised Catholic and attend Catholic church every week.</p>

Question	Instructions	 <p><b>Example: What Nayeli Wrote On Her Form I-589</b></p>
<p><b>Question 3B</b> Do you or your family members continue to participate in any way in these organizations or groups?</p>	<p>If you checked “yes,” explain your role or your family’s role in the group. Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership positions held.</li> <li>• Activities you participate in.</li> </ul>	<p>My family is Pipil. We are one of the indigenous groups in El Salvador. My husband and I were born into it.</p>
<p><b>Question 4</b> Are you afraid of being subjected to torture in your home country or any other country to which you may be returned?</p>	<p>If you checked “yes,” explain in as much detail what you think will happen to you. The torture must be by the government or with the government’s consent. The torture can be mental, physical, or both. <b>The torture does not have to be because of race, nationality, political opinion, membership in a social group or religion.</b> Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who you think will torture you and why.</li> <li>• If you were tortured in the past and what happened to you.</li> </ul>	<p>I fear that both the police and the gang might torture me because I will keep standing up to them to look for my brothers and protect my son. It’s hard to live in El Salvador. No one is there to help you. The police do not protect people from gangs, especially if you are indigenous.</p>

**Part C. Additional Information About Your Application**

This part has 6 questions about your immigration status, travel history, and criminal record.

**Talk to an immigration lawyer BEFORE you mail your application if you answered “yes” to any question in Part C.**

**Part D. Your Signature**

Sign the statement to confirm what you wrote on the form is correct. Write the address and phone number where USCIS can reach you.

## **Part E. Declaration of the Person Preparing this Form, If Other Than the Applicant, Spouse, Parent, or Child**

A “preparer” is anyone who helped you fill out the form. This might be a family member, friend, or lawyer. Did anyone help you fill out the form?

- **If yes**, write their name and contact information. They must also sign the form.
- **If no**, skip these questions.

## **Part F. To Be Completed at Asylum Interview, if Applicable**

Leave this section blank.

## **Part G. To Be Completed at Removal Hearing, if Applicable**

Leave this section blank.

## **Supplement A.**

Use this part if you need more space to enter information about your children. **Print and sign Supplement A even if you leave these pages blank.**

## **Supplement B.**

Use this part if you need more space to write about why you are afraid to return to your home country. **Print and sign Supplement B even if you leave these pages blank.**