

— FREE CHECKLIST

Green Card Interview Prep Checklist

What to bring, what to review, and how to prepare as a couple for the near-universal 2026 green card interview.

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Use this checklist in the two weeks before a USCIS adjustment interview (marriage-based focus; most items apply to any family interview). It covers what to bring, what to review, how to prepare as a couple, and the rules for interview day. Bring originals of everything you filed as copies — the officer may ask to see any of them.

Documents to bring — originals plus one copy set

- ☐ Interview notice (the appointment letter) — required for building entry
- ☐ Government photo ID for both spouses; the immigrant's passport (all passports, current and expired)
- ☐ Complete copy of the filed package — every form and exhibit exactly as submitted
- ☐ Originals of civil documents filed as copies: birth certificates, marriage certificate, divorce decrees/death certificates for all prior marriages, name-change orders
- ☐ Original I-94 printout, EAD card, and advance parole document if issued
- ☐ Certified court dispositions (originals) for any arrest — bring even if already filed

- ☐ If the I-693 was not filed with the package or has aged out: a new sealed civil surgeon envelope (confirm with counsel first — validity runs only while the case is pending)

Updates since filing — bring everything new

- ☐ Updated I-864 support: the newest tax return or IRS transcript if a filing season passed, W-2s/1099s, 2-3 recent pay stubs, current employment letter
- ☐ New joint financial evidence: latest joint bank statements (last 3-6 months), joint credit card statements, updated lease or new deed
- ☐ New insurance/beneficiary documents: current health insurance cards showing both spouses, renewed auto/renter's policies, any new beneficiary designations
- ☐ New life events: child's birth certificate, pregnancy records, new joint purchases (car title), trips taken together (itineraries, photos)
- ☐ 15-30 recent photos together — printed, dated, with locations and people noted
- ☐ Records of any address change since filing and the AR-11 confirmation
- ☐ Any new arrest, ticket beyond minor traffic, or court matter — bring certified records and tell your attorney BEFORE the interview

What to review before the interview

- ☐ Re-read your entire filed package, especially the I-485 questions and every date on the I-130/I-130A — your answers must match what you filed
- ☐ Know your own timeline cold: how you met, first date, engagement, wedding date, addresses lived at together, each other's jobs
- ☐ Review each other's basics: birthdays, family members' names, children from prior relationships, daily routines

- ☐ Reconcile any inconsistencies now (address gaps, name variations, date conflicts) and be ready to explain them plainly
- ☐ If anything on the forms was wrong, tell the officer and correct it at the interview — do not let an error stand

Couple preparation and Stokes awareness

- ☐ Practice likely history questions out loud: who proposed and how, what you did last weekend, who pays which bills, layout of your home, how you got to the interview
- ☐ Know that officers can separate spouses and compare answers (a "Stokes"-style second interview) — inconsistent answers on small details are what trigger it; honest "I don't remember" beats a guess
- ☐ If separated: answer each question yourself, exactly as you remember it — do not try to guess what your spouse will say
- ☐ Agree in advance: no coached scripts. Officers spot rehearsed identical wording; you need consistent facts, not identical sentences
- ☐ If you receive a Stokes/second-interview notice, do not attend without counsel — call the office immediately

Logistics and day-of rules

- ☐ Confirm the field office address on the notice (it may not be the closest office); plan to arrive 30–45 minutes early for security
- ☐ Rescheduling has consequences — only reschedule for real emergencies, through the official process, and keep proof of the request
- ☐ Both spouses must attend a marriage-based interview; bring your interpreter if you need one and the notice permits it (check the notice — some offices provide or restrict interpreters)
- ☐ Dress neatly; bring documents in organized labeled folders, not loose piles
- ☐ Phones off or silenced; no recording; follow all posted security rules

- ☐ Answer only the question asked, truthfully and briefly; never guess — say "I don't know" or "I don't remember" when true
- ☐ Never sign anything you do not understand; you may ask to consult your attorney before signing
- ☐ If your attorney attends, let them handle legal objections; if the officer requests more documents, get the request in writing (Form N-14 or RFE) before leaving
- ☐ Ask for the officer's decision timeline before leaving, and write down the officer's name and anything you were told to send

Notes: The interview is decided on consistency: your testimony must match your forms, and spouses' answers must match each other on the facts of daily life. Bring originals — an officer who cannot see the original may issue an RFE that costs months. Never lie or shade an answer to "help" the case; a misrepresentation finding is far worse than any bad fact. If anything unexpected happens (separation of spouses, a sworn statement request, talk of denial), stop and ask to contact your attorney: Usher Law Group, P.C., (718) 484-7510.

This checklist is general information, not legal advice, and doesn't cover every situation. Fees and rules change — confirm current amounts at [our fee table](#) or [uscis.gov](#) before filing.
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