



ASYLUM SCREENING TOOL

By ILRC Attorneys

Using this Resource

The screening tool is updated as of June 2025. It is intended to elicit sufficient information for an advocate to make an initial determination as to whether someone may be eligible for asylum and to identify where further information may be required. The advocate will likely need to ask further questions and obtain more information before being able to make a definitive assessment as to whether someone is eligible for asylum, which bars to asylum may have been triggered, and whether they should apply.

Some of these questions use legal terms of art or may be confusing if asked directly to community members. The advocate may need to use different language or phrasing for certain questions, appropriate to the asylum seeker they are screening.

Reminders for the Advocate

- If more than a year has passed since the asylum seeker last entered the U.S. and they have not yet filed their asylum application, screen for possible exemptions or exceptions to the **one-year filing deadline**.
- Not all of the statutory bars to asylum are covered in this screener. If the asylum seeker has certain criminal convictions or has engaged in certain conduct, they may be subject to a **bar to asylum**, such as the persecutor of others bar, the serious nonpolitical crime bar, or the particularly serious crime bar.
- If the person has entered the United States in the last two years (or if they were found inadmissible within two years of their entry), they may be subject to expanded **expedited removal**, and could face barriers in accessing asylum procedures.
- If the asylum seeker **entered the U.S. on or after May 11, 2023**, new rules may apply (the Circumvention of Lawful Pathways, Securing the Border rules (currently struck down), or other policies).
- The Trump administration's **212(f) proclamation** currently blocks access to asylum procedures for many asylum seekers arriving at the US border.
- If an asylum seeker is barred from asylum, they may still be eligible for alternative forms of protection (**withholding of removal** or protection under the **Convention Against Torture**).
- This resource provides a general template for asylum screening. Depending on the setting in which it is used, and the clients or community members who are being screened, advocates may want to make their own additions or changes to these questions.

Asylum Screening Questions

A. Biographic information

1. What is your full name? _____ (first, middle, last)
2. What is your date of birth? ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)
3. Where were you born _____ (city, state/region, country)
4. What is your marital status? _____
5. If married, what is your spouse's name? _____
6. If married, what is your spouse's nationality/immigration status? _____
7. Do you have any children? **Yes / No**
 - a. If yes, what are their names and dates/places of birth (if under 21, confirm they are unmarried), and where are they residing presently? _____

8. What is your current address? _____
9. What is your gender? _____
10. What is your sexual orientation? _____
11. What is your country of citizenship? _____
12. Which language(s) do you speak or read? _____
13. What is your ethnicity? _____

B. Questions about immigration status and journey to the United States

14. When did you last enter the United States? ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)
15. Where did you enter the United States? _____ (city, state)

NOTE: If the person entered through the Southern U.S. border on or after May 11, 2023, without documents sufficient for admission or a CBP One appointment, go through additional screening questions for recent asylum bars.

Additional screening questions concerning the Circumvention of Lawful Pathways rule can be found in Section F.

16. Did you present yourself at a port of entry? **Yes / No**

17. Did you enter with a visa, parole, or other entry document? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, what type of entry document? _____

b. What is the expiration date of the entry document?..... ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

18. After you arrived in the US, did an asylum officer interview you? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, do you know if you passed a credible fear interview after meeting with an asylum officer? **Yes / No**

b. If yes, do you have any documentation regarding the credible fear interview?
..... **Yes / No**

19. What is your present immigration status in the United States? _____

20. Have you ever filed an application for asylum (Form I-589)? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, when did you file the application? ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

b. Have you received a decision on your application? **Yes / No**

c. If yes, what was the decision? _____

d. If no, and it has been more than one year since your arrival in the U.S., is there a reason you have not been able to apply for asylum yet? _____

21. Have you filed any other immigration applications to stay in the U.S.? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, which applications were filed and when?

_____ ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

_____ ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

22. Has anyone else filed an application with immigration on your behalf? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, which applications were filed and when?

_____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

_____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

23. Have you ever applied for a visa to come to the U.S. and been denied?..... **Yes / No**

a. If yes, what happened? _____

24. Have you entered the U.S. previously (please list the dates of all entries and exits, the manner of entry, and your immigration status, if any, for each entry)?

_____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

_____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

_____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

25. Have you ever tried to enter the U.S. and been rejected? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, what happened? _____

26. Have you ever been ordered deported from the U.S.? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, when was that and what happened? _____

27. Are you now, or have you ever been, in removal proceedings? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, what is the current status of proceedings/next court date?

_____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

C. Questions about asylum claim

28. Are you afraid to return to your home country? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, why are you afraid to return? _____

29. Has anyone threatened you or physically harmed you in your home country? ... **Yes / No**

30. Has any of your family ever been threatened or physically harmed in your home country? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, what happened (describe the nature of what happened, why were you threatened or harmed, and who carried it out)? _____

D. Statutory bars to asylum

31. When did you last leave your country? ____ / ____ / ____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

32. Did you travel through any countries before arriving in the U.S.? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, complete the following:

Country	Length of stay	Did you apply to enter/stay?
_____	_____ Yes / No
_____	_____ Yes / No
_____	_____ Yes / No
_____	_____ Yes / No

33. Have you ever applied for asylum in any other country? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, please explain _____

34. Have you ever been arrested or detained in the U.S.? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, please explain _____

35. Have you ever been arrested or detained in any other country? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, please explain _____

E. Additional notes about asylum claim

F. Additional questions to screen for recent asylum bars

NOTE: Ask the following questions if entry was through Southern U.S. border without visa or document sufficient for admission between May 11, 2023, and May 11, 2025, to screen for Circumvention of Lawful Pathways (CLP) rule.

As of the last update to this resource, the Securing the Border rule's bar to asylum has been blocked by a legal challenge, but litigation is ongoing, and its status could change.

If entry was on or after January 20, 2025, the INA § 212(f) presidential proclamation may also apply. Those who entered on or after this date may be blocked from accessing asylum altogether. People who were previously removed under the 212(f) proclamation may have received a removal order or may have been expelled without a removal order.

If entry was between May 11, 2023 and May 11, 2025 (Circumvention of lawful pathways rule)

36. Did you enter at the Southwest land border or adjacent coasts? **Yes / No**

Exceptions to the circumvention of lawful pathways rule

37. Did you apply for asylum in a country that you went through before coming to the U.S.? **Yes / No**

38. Did that country deny your asylum application? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, what was the reason for the denial? _____

39. Are you an unaccompanied minor or were you previously designated as an unaccompanied minor? **Yes / No**

40. Were you subject to a severe form of trafficking in persons? **Yes / No**

41. Did you use, or try to use, the CBPOne app before coming to the U.S.? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, did you receive an appointment? **Yes / No**

b. When and where was your appointment? _____

c. If yes, did anyone try to help you with setting up an appointment? **Yes / No**

d. How did they help you? _____

e. If you tried to use the app, but were unable to obtain an appointment, what happened? _____

Exceptionally compelling circumstances

42. Did you enter the U.S. with a family member? **Yes / No**

a. If yes, complete the following for each:

Name	Age	Relationship
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

43. Prior to entering the U.S., did you or your accompanying family member:

- a. Experience any illness or injury? **Yes / No**
- b. Receive any threats? **Yes / No**
- c. Feel you were in imminent danger? **Yes / No**
- d. Forced or coerced to do anything against your will? **Yes / No**
- e. Have someone limit or control your movement? **Yes / No**
- f. Face other urgent or compelling circumstances? **Yes / No**
- g. If you answered yes to any of the questions above, please explain: _____

Carve-out exceptions (Family unity and age)

- 44. Do you have a spouse or child under the age of 21 who could be a derivative on your asylum claim? **Yes / No**
- 45. Do your spouse or child(ren) have their own claim for asylum or any other relief from removal? **Yes / No**
- 46. Were you under the age of 18 when you entered the United States? **Yes / No**



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