**Practice Update:** On August 3, 2020, USCIS published its [final rule on fee changes](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/2020-10/documents/final-rule-on-fee-changes.pdf) for immigration applications, due to take effect on **October 2, 2020** unless challenged by litigation—make sure to check for updates. For quick review of the rule’s changes to fees and fee waivers, see the table of fee changes at 85 Fed. Reg. 46791 and the table of forms without fees or eligible for fee waivers at 85 Fed. Reg. 46812.

Most fees have gone up, many of them drastically, and fee waivers are eliminated for most applications once the rule becomes effective on October 2nd. Additionally, USCIS intends to “un-bundle” fees, so that an applicant for adjustment of status will have to pay separately for employment authorization or advance parole if they hope to be able to work or travel while their adjustment application is pending.

Any application, petition, or request postmarked on or after October 2, 2020 must include payment of the fees established by this final rule. See [USCIS news release on the final fee rule](https://www.uscis.gov/news-release/uscis-publishes-final-rule-on-fee-changes).

**Until the fee rule goes into effect, applicants should continue to file applications and request fee waivers under existing fees and fee waiver policy.**

The final fee rule would eliminate fee waivers for most citizenship applications (N-400s) as well as other applications, including I-90 green card renewals and I-751 applications to remove conditions on residency. At the same time, the new fee for naturalization will be $1170 for a paper-based filing and $1160 for an electronically filed application. This represents a 530% increase from the existing fee of $640.

The application types that retain fee waivers are those filed by VAWA, T, U, SJS, TPS, and Afghan/Iraqi special immigrants, including later-filed applications by these individuals, such as adjustment, naturalization, or certificates of citizenship applications filed by VAWA, T, U, SJS, TPS, or Afghan/Iraqi special immigrants.

Even in the few applications where fee waivers remain available, the fee waiver criteria will be narrowed considerably, only allowing a fee waiver where income is at or below 125% of the poverty income guidelines, the applicant uses the prescribed fee waiver form, and only with specific supporting documentation.

We will update our website soon with more details and resources on the fee rule.