



Paths to a MARRIAGE GREEN CARD

 **Corado | Pastrana** LLC
The Immigration Firm for Couples

Process Name	Fiance Visa	Adjust Status	Consular Process	Direct File
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Description	Immigrant engaged to a U.S. citizen gets a K1 visa to travel to the U.S. Within 90 days of arrival, they get married and apply for a green card inside the U.S. through adjustment of status.	Immigrant is currently in the U.S. on a visa (like a student, visitor, or worker). They marry a U.S. citizen or green card holder and apply for a green card inside the U.S.	Immigrant is currently in a foreign country and married to a U.S. citizen or green card holder. They go through a multi-step process beginning in the U.S. to get an immigrant visa to travel the U.S. and receive a green card on arrival.	Immigrant is married to a U.S. citizen and they live together abroad near a U.S. Embassy that offers this faster type of consular processing. They obtain an immigrant visa to travel to the U.S. and receive a green card on arrival.
Marriage Status At Time Of Filing	Single (Engaged)	Married	Married	Married
Where Immigrant Lives At Time Of Filing	Foreign country	United States	Foreign country OR United States	Foreign country
Where Petitioning Spouse Lives At Time Of Filing	United States (or foreign country and planning to move to the United States)	United States	United States (or foreign country and planning to move to the United States)	Foreign country, but will be moving to the United States with their spouse
Location Of Interview	U.S. Embassy in foreign country AND USCIS Office inside the United States (2 interviews)	USCIS Office inside the United States (1 interview)	U.S. Embassy in foreign country (1 interview)	U.S. Embassy in foreign country (1 interview)

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Most Common Reasons A Couple Doesn't Choose This Option	<p>They are already married, or</p> <p>The immigrant is already inside the U.S.</p>	<p>The immigrant entered the U.S. unlawfully, or</p> <p>They have an "immigrant intent" problem</p>	<p>The immigrant already lives in the U.S. and they don't want to travel abroad for their interview, or</p> <p>They aren't married yet, and a fiancé visa is a faster way for them to get to the U.S.</p>	<p>The petitioner lives in the U.S. so this isn't an option, or</p> <p>The petitioner lives abroad, but not in a country where the U.S. Embassy accepts direct filed applications.</p>
Most Common Reasons A Couple Does Choose This Option	<p>This is usually the fastest way to get a fiancé into the U.S. if they currently live abroad.</p>	<p>If the immigrant is physically in the U.S. and qualifies for adjustment, this is the fastest and lowest hassle option.</p>	<p>The immigrant lives abroad and is already married so a K1 visa is not an option, or</p> <p>The immigrant isn't married yet but doesn't want a K1 because they need to have work authorization immediately when they enter the U.S., or</p> <p>The immigrant lives in the U.S. but doesn't meet the strict legal requirements to be allowed to adjust status.</p>	<p>If the couple lives abroad in a country with this option, then this is the fastest route to getting a green card.</p>
Benefits Of Choosing This Option	<p>Usually shorter time to enter the U.S. than if consular processing</p> <p>Fiancé can come to US for up to 90 days if you want to spend more time together before marrying</p>	<p>No need to travel to home country for the green card interview</p> <p>Can get work authorization while application is pending</p>	<p>Eligible to work immediately upon arrival in U.S.</p> <p>Paperwork is significantly less than for a fiancé visa</p>	<p>Fastest option if the couple lives abroad</p>
Drawbacks Of Choosing This Option	<p>Fiancé can't work for the first several months after they arrive in U.S.</p> <p>Marriage must take place inside U.S.</p> <p>Legal process is more of a hassle because you first have to apply for the fiancé visa and then do another whole adjustment of status application for the green card after marriage.</p>	<p>Stricter eligibility requirements than consular processing or fiancé visa so many couples want to adjust status but don't qualify,</p> <p>May require staying inside the U.S. for 3-5 months after filing, which can be a problem for frequent international travelers.</p>	<p>Longer time to arrive in the US than if using the fiancé visa option. Consular processing couples are usually separated the longest.</p>	<p>The U.S. government has been shutting down this option in most locations so very few couples are now able to do this.</p>