



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Immigration Legal Services

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DACA Renewals at Immigration Legal Services

When can I renew my DACA and work permit?

Previously, USCIS recommended filing 150 days in advance, but they will accept renewal applications filed earlier. You can submit your renewal up to one year late. If you need a state ID or driver's license, you should try to have your new DACA EAD one month before your state ID/DL expires.

Should I renew now in case the Supreme Court takes DACA away?

We cannot say for sure what would happen if the Supreme Court decision means that the President can end the DACA program. It could mean that the government stops taking further renewals and allows people with DACA to keep it until it expires, or it could mean that anyone in process will get their DACA renewed, or something else. We don't know. You will have to decide if it is worth the risk of paying for something for which you may not get 2 years of benefit.

How much do you charge?

Immigration Legal Services charges \$40 for consultations, and \$180 for representation on the DACA renewals, for a total of \$220.

How long does it take to prepare everything?

If you bring everything to your appointment, we can usually complete everything in an hour.

What do I need to bring to renew my DACA and work permit?

- *Income Information. (ILS only serves people with low income.) Usually this will mean your last year's tax return.*
- *Your current work permit*
- *Your state ID/license and your social security number*
- *Your most recent passport, if any*
- *If you did not complete your initial DACA or prior renewal applications in our office, a copy of your prior applications, if available*
- *Money order for \$495.00 made out to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security*
- *Service fee of \$220.00 (cash or money order – no cards accepted)*
- *2 passport-type photos (or you can do them in office for \$10)*
- *If you have travelled since your initial application, copy of your advance parole document*
- *If you have been arrested since your **initial application**, police report and certified court documents*

Will I have to have my fingerprints taken again?

Yes.

How long will it take to get my new work permit?

USCIS states that their normal processing time for DACA renewals is 5-7 months. However, we see the vast majority of DACA renewals processed in less than 3 months.

Can I work if my work permit expires before I get my new one?

You will no longer be authorized to work if your work permit expires.

DACA at the Supreme Court

As you know, the Supreme Court will hear arguments about DACA this fall (2019) and a decision in the case is expected between January and June 2020. There are many kinds of decisions the Supreme Court could make. What happens next depends on the decision.

They could decide that they don't have the power to review the government's decision to end DACA. If that happens, probably the government would follow its plan of terminating DACA.

If the Court thinks they DO have power to review the decision, they will then decide whether the government had the power to start the DACA program in the first place and/or whether the **way** in which the government terminated DACA was legal.

If the Court thinks that DACA is illegal and the government should not have started it in the first place, then the government will stop taking applications. We will not know how it will affect work permits in the hands of people until it happens.

If the Court thinks that DACA is legal, and the way the government ended it is legal, then the government will likely continue their process of terminating DACA.

If the Court thinks that DACA is legal, but the way the government ended it is **not** legal, then things will go back to how they were before the government tried to end it. **However**, the government might then try to end it in a different way.