



**Office of the New York State  
Attorney General  
Eric T. Schneiderman**

# Immigration Youth & Deferred Action



New regulations allow young immigrants who came to the United States as children to petition the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to defer prosecution for unauthorized entry or residence and to request a work authorization.

“Deferred Action” is granted on a case-by-case basis and does not confer legal status or citizenship upon an individual. Those eligible may stay in the country and may work for a two-year period, subject to renewal. The policy provides many immigrants with the opportunity to live and work in the U.S. without fear of imminent deportation.

Be prepared before applying. Make sure you:

- Carefully consider the pros and cons of submitting an application. Consult with your family and, if you have questions about the application process, an attorney or accredited representative. Here are two websites you can visit to find a licensed attorney:

New York State Bar Association:

[www.nysba.org](http://www.nysba.org)  
1-800-342-3661

American Immigration Lawyers Association:

[www.aila.org](http://www.aila.org)  
202-507-7600

- Have all the documents you need at the time of application. Incomplete applications will be rejected, and there are no appeals. For more information about the required documents, go to:

[www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov)





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# Tips to Consider



- \* Individuals cannot expedite your request for “Deferred Action” for a fee. Never pay a fee for an expedited application.
- \* Do not employ someone who claims they can “guarantee” approval for “Deferred Action.”
- \* Only you, an attorney, a Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA)-accredited representative, or a law graduate or student supervised by an attorney or BIA-accredited representative can represent you before USCIS and inquire about the status of your request.
- \* Notaries Public in the United States are not attorneys. Do not hire them for legal advice or representation.
- \* Never sign an immigration form you do not understand, especially if it is not written in your language. Never sign a blank form. Anything you sign that is not true and accurate may be considered fraudulent by USCIS, and this may have serious repercussions for you.
- \* It’s best to pay for any service you obtain by money order, check, or credit card. Do not pay with cash, and always ask for and keep a receipt. Note that USCIS filing fees must also be paid by those same methods.
- \* All application materials for “Deferred Action” are available on the USCIS website at no cost. You can download them directly from their site at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). Keep copies of any paperwork you submit.

## **Immigration Services Fraud**

**If you or someone you know is a victim  
of fraud, contact the New York State  
Attorney General**

**Immigration Fraud Hotline:**

**1-866-390-2992**

**[ag.ny.gov](http://ag.ny.gov)**