



TPS FOR HONDURAS AND NICARAGUA

Frequently Asked Questions

On November 6, 2017, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced changes to the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program that impact TPS holders from Honduras and Nicaragua. On December 15, 2017, DHS published notices in the Federal Register explaining how TPS holders from these two countries can re-register and re-apply for work permits, or Employment Authorization Documents (EAD). A summary of what you can do now is below.

I. Honduras

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Honduras was supposed to expire on January 5, 2018 but has been automatically extended for six months. The new expiration date for TPS for Honduras is July 5, 2018. It is unclear whether TPS for Honduras will continue to be extended beyond July 5, 2018.

Do I need to re-register for TPS?

If you are a TPS holder from Honduras and wish to maintain your TPS status until July 5, 2018, **you must re-register and file [Form I-821 \(Application for Temporary Protected Status\)](#). This form must be postmarked by February 13, 2018.** To ensure you don't miss the chance to re-register, do not wait until your work permit expires and do not wait until the last minute to file your forms. Send them as soon as possible.

You do **not** need to pay the \$50 filing fee for Form I-821. However, you do have to pay the \$85 biometrics services fee. If you are unable to pay the \$85 biometrics fee, there are two ways you can request that the fee be waived. You can either send a completed [Form I-912 Request for Fee Waiver](#), or you can send a personal letter requesting a fee waiver and explaining and documenting why you cannot pay the fee.

Do I need to file for a new work permit?

If you have a work permit as a TPS holder from Honduras, your current work permit has the expiration date of January 5, 2018. Under the announced changes, you have automatically been authorized to work for six additional months (through July 4, 2018). As long as you apply to re-register your TPS by February 13, 2018, you can work legally through July 4, 2018 even if you do not apply for a new work permit.

However, if you want to obtain a new work permit card that shows an expiration date of July 5, 2018 on its face, you must file a [Form I-765 \(Application for Employment Authorization\)](#) and pay the \$410 filing fee that goes with it, in addition to filing your Form I-821 re-registration application. If you are unable to pay the \$410 work permit filing fee, there are two ways you can request that the fee be waived. You can either send a completed [Form I-912 Request for Fee Waiver](#), or you can send a personal letter requesting a fee waiver and explaining and documenting why you cannot pay the fee.

If I do not want to apply for a new work permit, how do I show my employer that my current work permit is still valid through July 4, 2018?

Around January 5, 2018 (your work permit's current expiration date) your employer may ask for new proof of your ability to work legally. You will need to present your employer with proof that you are still authorized to work. If you chose not to apply for a new work permit, print a copy of the [Federal Register Notice¹](#) announcing the TPS extension for Honduras to your employer to show that the validity of your current work permit has been automatically extended through July 4, 2018.

¹ <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-12-15/pdf/2017-27140.pdf>

What happens at the end of the TPS period?

On July 5, 2018, your work permit will expire and your TPS will end. You should consult with a trusted legal services provider about other immigration options you might be eligible for. Search for a legal service provider near you here: <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/>. If you live in the 9th Circuit (Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington) or the 6th Circuit (Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee), you may be eligible for additional immigration options. For more information, see the [ILRC Practice Alert on Ramirez v. Brown](#).

II. Nicaragua

DHS has announced they have terminated Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Nicaragua. TPS designation for Nicaragua was supposed to expire on January 5, 2018. DHS has given TPS holders from Nicaragua an additional 12 months of TPS status (January 5, 2019) and has announced they do not plan to extend or renew TPS for Nicaraguans past that date.

If TPS for Nicaragua has been terminated do I still need to re-register for TPS?

If you are a TPS holder from Nicaragua and wish to maintain your status through January 5, 2019, **you must re-register and file Form I-821 (Application for Temporary Protected Status). This form must be postmarked by February 13, 2018.** To ensure you don't miss the chance to re-register, do not wait until your work permit expires and do not wait until the last minute to file your forms. Send them as soon as possible.

You do **not** need to pay the \$50 filing fee for Form I-821. However, you do have to pay the \$85 biometrics services fee. If you are unable to pay the \$85 biometrics fee, there are two ways you can request that the fee be waived. You can either send a completed Form I-912 Request for Fee Waiver, or you can send a personal letter requesting a fee waiver and explaining and documenting why you cannot pay the fee.

Do I need to file for a new work permit?

If you have a work permit as a TPS holder from Nicaragua, your current work permit has the expiration date of January 5, 2018. Under the announced changes, you have automatically been authorized to work for sixty additional days (through March 6, 2018). As long as you apply to re-register your TPS by February 13, 2018, you can work legally through March 6, 2018 even if you do not apply for a new work permit. If you choose not to apply for a new work permit, print a copy of the [Federal Register Notice²](#) announcing the TPS extension for Nicaragua to your employer to show that the validity of your current work permit has been automatically extended through March 6, 2018.

However, if you want to obtain a new work permit card that shows an expiration date of January 5, 2019 on its face, you must file a [Form I-765 \(Application for Employment Authorization\)](#) and pay the \$410 filing fee that goes with it, in addition to filing your Form I-821 re-registration application. If you are unable to pay the \$410 work permit filing fee, there are two ways you can request that the fee be waived. You can either send a completed [Form I-912 Request for Fee Waiver](#), or you can send a personal letter requesting a fee waiver and explaining and documenting why you cannot pay the fee. If you timely re-register for TPS and file for a new work permit the validity of the work permit will be automatically extended for up to 180 days from the date your current work expires, i.e., through July 4, 2018.

What happens at the end of the TPS period?

If you do nothing, your work permit will expire and your TPS will end on January 5, 2018. If you apply by February 13, 2018 to re-register, your work permit will expire and your TPS will end on January 5, 2019. You should consult with a trusted legal services provider about other immigration options you might be eligible for. Search for a legal service provider near you here: <https://www.immigrationadvocates.org/nonprofit/legaldirectory/>. If you live in the 9th Circuit (Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington) or the 6th Circuit (Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee), you may be eligible for additional immigration options. For more information, see the [ILRC Practice Alert on Ramirez v. Brown](#).

² <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-12-15/pdf/2017-27141.pdf>