



Frequently Asked Questions for Permanent Resident Card Holders Who Have Lost or Mislaid their “Green Card”



A Permanent Resident Card (USCIS Form I-551) is proof of your permanent resident status in the United States. It also serves as a valid identification document and proof that you are eligible to live and work in the United States. Although some Permanent Resident Cards, commonly known as Green Cards, contain no expiration date, most are valid for 10 years. If you have been granted conditional permanent resident status, the card is valid for 2 years. It is important to keep your card up-to-date. Without a valid card, it may be difficult for you to prove that you are a permanent resident, and this could also affect your ability to travel or to prove your eligibility to work in the United States.

Q. When do I need to renew my Permanent Resident Card?

A. You should renew your Permanent Resident Card if you were issued a card valid for 10 years if it has expired or will expire within the next 6 months.

If your Permanent Resident Card is valid for only 2 years, you are a conditional resident. You will need to file a petition to remove the conditions of your residence before the card expires. You may file this petition **90 days** before your conditional green card expires. If your petition is approved, you will be sent a new Permanent Resident Card valid for 10 years. You do not need to file Form I-90. This is discussed below.

If your card does not have any expiration date on the front, then you have a very old version. Most old versions are no longer valid. Even if your card does not have an expiration date on it, we recommend you apply to renew it.

Q. When do I need to replace my Permanent Resident Card?

A. Apply to replace your Permanent Resident Card if any information on your card needs to be changed, or if your card has been lost, stolen, or damaged.

Also, if you became a permanent resident before you turned 14 years old, you are required to replace your card when you become 14 years old.

Q. How do I replace my Green Card, if I have lost or mislaid it?

A. Visit <http://www.uscis.gov/forms/i-90>. Read the form instructions. Have your Permanent Resident Card information with you, including your “A” or “Alien Registration Number. Complete the form and submit it to the USCIS using the address indicated in the form instructions.

Q. Can I file the request to replace my Permanent Resident Card online?

A. You may be able to do so. Please visit <http://www.uscis.gov/e-filing-i-90>, to determine, if you are eligible for this service.

Q. What happens, after I submit the I-90 form?

A. The USCIS will send you an I-797 receipt notice, once your form has been properly filed.

- You will be scheduled for a biometrics collection appointment (fingerprints), if one is needed.
- You will receive an extension of the validity period of your Permanent Resident Card.
- The USCIS will mail the new Permanent Resident Card to the address indicated on Form I-90.

Q. Are there any helpful tips that can expedite the processing of my request?

A. Yes! Here are the most important:

- Make sure to include your mailing address on the application.
- Use the most current version of Form I-90. Always go online to the USCIS website listed, above, to ensure the form you are using is current.
- When possible, use the computer to type in your answers, before printing the form. You can save the form, on your desktop, if you need more time.
* If you complete it by hand, use black ink so it shows up, clearly. Make sure your answers are neat and legible, within the space provided.
- Your answers will be scanned by the USCIS into their computer. Their program cannot read answers that are highlighted, greyed-out, whited-out, or corrected by hand.
- Complete the entire form and submit all other documents required with the form.
- Submit copies, unless original documents are requested. If you submit an original, it will not be returned to you, automatically.

For more information on this and other important facts about immigration and naturalization, please visit the website of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at <http://www.uscis.gov>.



Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
Legal Assistance Office
6450 Way Avenue
Fort Benning, GA 31905
706-545-3281/3282