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Fact Sheet: Temporary Protected Status for Nicaragua

This fact sheet is current as of July 28, 2025. It is not legal advice.

Through the [Federal Register notice](#) on July 8, 2025, the Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem announced the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Nicaragua. The designation for Nicaragua expired on July 5, 2025. The termination will be effective September 8, 2025.

What is temporary protected status (TPS)?

TPS is granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to eligible foreign-born individuals who are unable to return home safely due to conditions or circumstances preventing their return to their home country.

During the designated TPS period, TPS holders are not removable from the United States and not detainable by DHS based on their immigration status. TPS holders are eligible for an employment authorization document (EAD), and eligible for travel authorization.

What is the status of TPS for Nicaragua?

For the 18-month period beginning on January 6, 2024, and ending on July 5, 2025, the Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas extended and redesignated Nicaragua for TPS. Through the Federal Register notice on July 8, 2025, the Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem terminated the extension of TPS for Nicaragua.

From the notice of termination on July 8, 2025, there is a 60-day transition period until the termination is effective on September 8, 2025, after 11:59pm. After September 8, 2025, nationals of Nicaragua (and people having no nationality who last habitually resided in Nicaragua) who hold TPS, will no longer have TPS.

What happens to my employment authorization during the 60-day transition period?

Between July 8, 2025, and September 8, 2025 (the 60-day transition period), Nicaragua TPS holders who already have employment authorization documents, continue to be employment authorized. After September 8, 2025, TPS is terminated along with its corresponding employment authorization.

How do I apply for TPS?

People interested in TPS must file an application with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and pay the filing fee. They may also apply for an EAD and travel authorization. All individuals applying for TPS undergo security and background checks as part of determining eligibility.

The application period for TPS for Nicaragua is closed as of July 5, 2025. No more applications are being accepted.

Is TPS status given automatically?

No, TPS is not automatic. People must apply, pay a filing fee, and pass immigration screening. There are some facts that will make a person ineligible for TPS. For example, people with certain criminal convictions or who violated the human rights of others are not eligible for TPS. People who are inadmissible under certain sections of the law may have to file a waiver before they can be approved for TPS status. The application process can be complicated, and we recommend working with an immigration attorney. Please note, currently DHS is not accepting TPS applications for Nicaragua.

How long will eligible individuals have protection under TPS?

TPS is a temporary status. TPS for Nicaragua is terminated on September 8, 2025. After this date, Nicaraguan nationals (and people having no nationality who last habitually resided in Nicaragua) who hold TPS status will no longer have TPS.

I have a TPS for Nicaragua, can I apply to extend it?

No, the TPS for Nicaragua extension was vacated by DHS.

I do not have TPS, can I apply for the first time?

No, TPS applications for Nicaragua are not currently being accepted.

I am from Nicaragua, and I am in deportation proceedings. Can I apply for TPS to avoid deportation?

No, you can no longer apply for TPS for Nicaragua.

Does TPS Status provide a path to permanent residency?

No, TPS does not provide a path to lawful permanent resident status. However, some TPS holders may be independently eligible to adjust status through a family-based, employment-based, or other legal avenue. Please consult with an immigration lawyer regarding this issue.

May someone with a pending asylum application apply for TPS?

Note: currently TPS applications for Nicaragua are not being accepted.

Applying for TPS, or being granted TPS, does not affect a pending asylum application. However, asylum applicants should consider their preferred strategy in the event that their asylum application is not granted by USCIS. Based on this, we strongly recommend obtaining an immigration lawyer to discuss this question with you.

If someone has TPS at the time their asylum application is denied, USCIS cannot refer their asylum case to an immigration judge where the applicant may present the asylum claim for reconsideration. Thus, if you have a weak asylum case that is unlikely to be granted by an immigration judge and have no other relief available, it may be best to proceed with applying for TPS. Those who have a strong case for asylum may prefer not to apply for TPS until after the affirmative asylum application has been denied. Again, it is important to obtain an immigration lawyer to discuss the merits of your asylum application.

Note that obtaining TPS status will “stop the clock” on the requirement to file for asylum within one year of arriving in the United States if the one-year clock has not already expired.

Get Help

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM) provides free immigration legal services to low-income immigrants in a variety of immigration matters. For more information about how we can assist you, please visit our website at www.ilcm.org or call us at (651) 641-1011.