

# Voluntary Departure

## What is Voluntary Departure?

- **Voluntary Departure allows you to:**
  - Leave the U.S. without a deportation order.
  - Return to the U.S. legally in the future if you qualify.

## Benefits of Voluntary Departure

- **There is no order of deportation** in your immigration record. You can return to the U.S. legally in the future if you qualify.

## Do You Qualify for Voluntary Departure?

- **You may qualify for Voluntary Departure if:**
  - You are able to show the judge that you are a good person and deserve the opportunity to return to the U.S. legally in the future.
  - You are able to pay for your trip home.
- **You do not qualify for Voluntary Departure if** you have been convicted of an aggravated felony. (Talk to an immigration lawyer if you are not sure.)

## What Should You Do Next?

- 1. Decide if a Voluntary Departure is good for you.**
  - If you qualify for asylum, cancellation of removal, adjustment of status, or any other defenses, you may want to fight your case *instead of* asking for voluntary departure.
  - If you ask for Voluntary Departure at your first hearing, you give up the right to fight your case. (Talk to an immigration lawyer if you are not sure.)
- 2. If you ask for Voluntary Departure, put together information for the judge:**
  - Letters of support from family, friends, religious leaders, or employers that say you are a good person (all letters must be translated into English).
  - Birth certificates, copies of green cards, and other papers showing members of your family are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents.
  - Copies of your marriage certificate if your spouse is a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident.
  - Proof that a family member has filed an "I-130 petition" for you to get lawful permanent residency.
  - Certificates from any classes you have completed.
  - Proof that you support your family.
  - Any other information that shows you are a good person.
- 3. Ask family members, friends, or anyone who supports your case to talk with the judge about you.** They may:
  - Come to the court and talk with the judge or
  - Talk with the judge by telephone. (You might have to ask the judge for permission to have people to talk with the judge by telephone.)
- 4. You must pay your bond** if you receive Voluntary Departure and you need time out of detention before you leave the U.S.