

9 FAM APPENDIX O, 500 DEFINITIONS

(CT:VISA-867; 03-20-2007)
(Office of Origin: CA/VO/L/R)

Affidavit of Relationship (AOR). Sworn statement filed by an eligible family member in the United States that allows certain relatives overseas to apply for the U.S. refugee program.

Anchor. A refugee's relative in the United States who is eligible to file an AOR.

Assurance. The agreement of a voluntary resettlement agency to sponsor a refugee. This agreement is signed by a designated voluntary agency official and submitted to the Refugee Processing Center (RPC) for forwarding overseas. A copy of the agreement is included in the refugee's travel documents for presentation at the port of entry (POE) in the United States.

Asylee. A person meeting the definition of a refugee who is physically present in the United States or at a U.S. port of entry (POE) when he is granted asylum.

Central overseas processing entity (COPE). OPE version of WRAPS used at the RPC to enter V-93 case information for locations around the world that do not have a resident OPE.

Circuit ride. A visit by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officers or staff of an overseas processing entity (OPE) to prepare refugee cases and interview refugee applicants.

Class A Medical Condition. A communicable disease of public health significance or a physical or mental disorder associated with harmful behavior, or drug abuse/addiction, (see INA 22(a)(1)(A)(i), (iii), or (iv)).

Class B Medical Condition. Physical or mental defect, disease, or disability serious in degree or permanent in nature that is a substantial departure from normal physical or mental well-being.

Defector. A person falling under the provisions of INA 212(a)(3)(D)(iii), often misused in connection with refugee status or asylum claims.

Joint Voluntary Agency (JVA). See overseas processing entity (OPE), below.

Overseas processing entity (OPE). A voluntary agency under cooperative agreement with the Department, a U.S. mission contractor, or international organization that helps process refugees for U.S. resettlement. Sometimes known formerly as a Joint Voluntary Agency (JVA).

Principal applicant (PA). The primary person in a case. In a refugee case, this is the individual who must substantiate a claim for refugee status in an interview with an immigration officer.

Reception and Placement (R&P). The arrival and initial resettlement services provided to refugees on arrival in the United States by voluntary resettlement agencies under cooperative agreement with the Department.

Refugee. A person as defined in INA 101(a)(42) who is outside his or her country of origin and is unwilling or unable to return because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on one of five grounds: race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. A refugee is excluded from international protection if he or she has "ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated" in the persecution of others. (See INA 101(a)(42) for full definition.)

Refugee Access Verification Unit (RAVU). An office in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that reviews Affidavits of Relationship for relationship fraud.

Refugee Processing Center (RPC). The central data repository for all overseas and domestic resettlement operations located in Arlington, Virginia. Under PRM/A, the RPC manages the Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System (WRAPS).

Sponsor. A voluntary non-profit or Governmental agency under agreement with the Department to serve as the legal sponsor of refugees arriving in the United States.

Unaccompanied refugee minor (URM). A refugee child under 18 years old who is separated from both parents and is not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for him or her.

Virtual overseas processing entity (VOPE). OPE version of WRAPS used at the Refugee Processing Center (RPC) to process certain Colombian cases. As needed, VOPE is used to enter information on other special or highly sensitive cases that cannot be processed by an OPE.

VISAS 92 (V-92). Beneficiary (following-to-join) Form I-730, Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition filed by a person granted asylum in the United States. V-92 beneficiaries do not qualify for refugee benefits and do not count against the annual refugee admissions ceilings.

VISAS 93 (V-93). Beneficiary (following-to-join) Form I-730 Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition filed by a person admitted to the United States as a refugee. Beneficiaries qualify for PRM-funded support and count against annual refugee admissions ceilings.

Worldwide Refugee Admissions Processing System (WRAPS). A centralized database that tracks refugee case processing.