



Department of Human Resources  
311 W. Saratoga St.  
Baltimore, MD. 21201-3521

## FIA INFORMATION MEMO

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**TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT  
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS/ELIGIBILITY STAFF**

*Charles E. Henry for*  
**FROM: KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA**

**RE: ELIGIBILITY PERIODS FOR ASYLEES**

**PROGRAMS AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE, FOOD  
STAMPS, TRANSITIONAL EMERGENCY,  
MEDICAL AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE**

**ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY AND RESEARCH**

This Information Memo informs staff how to determine the arrival dates of asylees when calculating their eligibility period. An asylee's period of eligibility is computed from the date that individual entered the United States. The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), considers the date of entry to be the date that asylum status was granted. The immigration document (I-94) states the date the asylum was granted.

The attached memo from the Administration for Children and Families provides specific information about Kurdish evacuees who may apply for asylum. When determining eligibility for these asylees, please refer to this information memo and the attachment to assure that you determine the correct date of entry. Direct inquiries to Yolanda M. Parker at (410) 767-7259.

cc: FIA Management Staff  
Constituent Services  
DHR Executive Staff  
Frank Bien  
Help Desk  
CTF



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20447

OCT 22 1996

To: State Welfare Administrators  
State Refugee Coordinators  
Voluntary Agencies  
Other Interested Parties

The United States recently airlifted to Guam Kurdish evacuees who are of special humanitarian concern to the United States, such as former employees of the U.S. government and their families. They were paroled into the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and were given the opportunity to apply for asylum and resettlement in the U.S.

Once approved for asylum, the immigration document (I-94) will state the date that asylum was granted and have the following statement, or a variation thereof:

"Asylum Granted Indefinitely pursuant to Section 208 of the INA," (or it may reference Sec. 208(a)).

If otherwise eligible, persons granted asylum are eligible for refugee program benefits and assistance. Like refugees, asylees are authorized to work and to receive social security numbers. Unlike refugees who receive their status prior to being admitted to the U.S., asylees usually are granted asylum while they are physically present in the U.S. Therefore, while the eligibility period for refugees is calculated based on their date of arrival in the U.S., the eligibility period for assistance for asylees is computed from the date that the individual entered the U.S. For these Kurdish evacuees, the date of entry is considered by ORR to be the date that asylum status was granted.

Additionally, under the Welfare Reform legislation, Pub. L. No. 104-193, enacted August 22, 1996, asylees are eligible for the same benefits as are refugees.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions regarding benefits for these asylees, please contact Ms. Barbara Chesnik at the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Her telephone number is (202) 401-4558.

Lavinia Limon  
Director  
Office of Refugee Resettlement