

MARIA & JESUS,

their four
children,

and some
myths about
the 10-year law

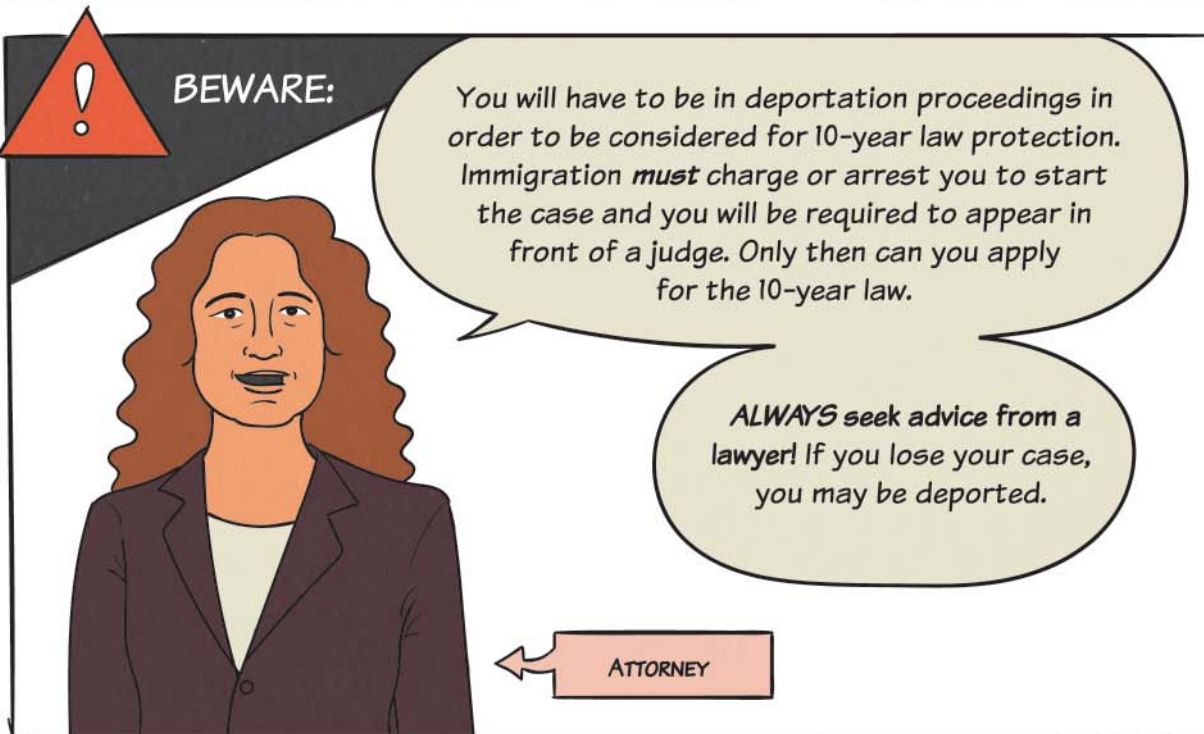


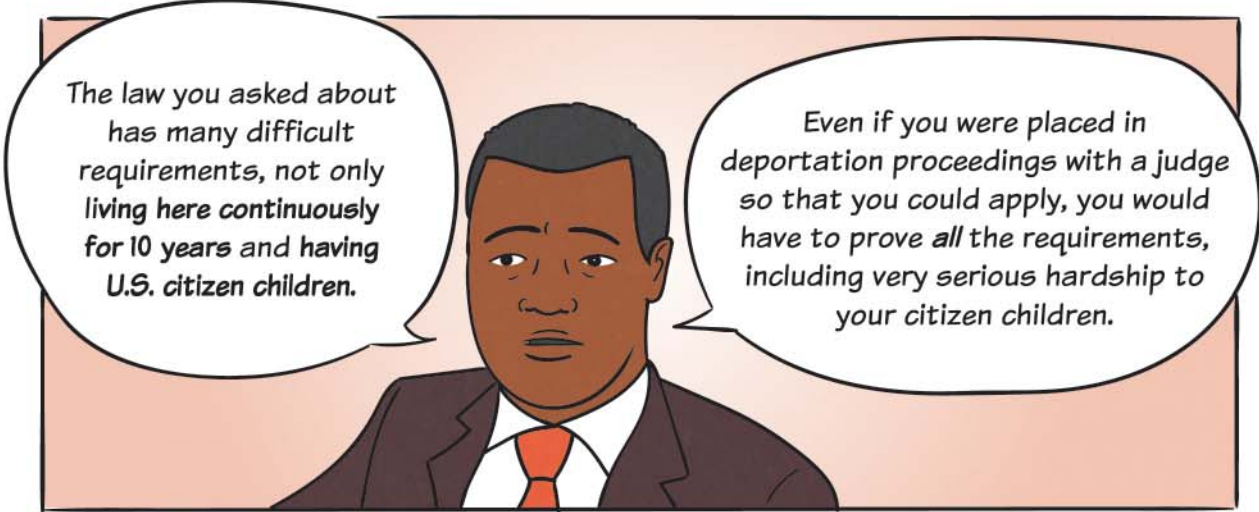
Is it true that you can receive **permanent immigration status** from the U.S. government if you've lived here for **over ten years**? Here is a story that answers that question.

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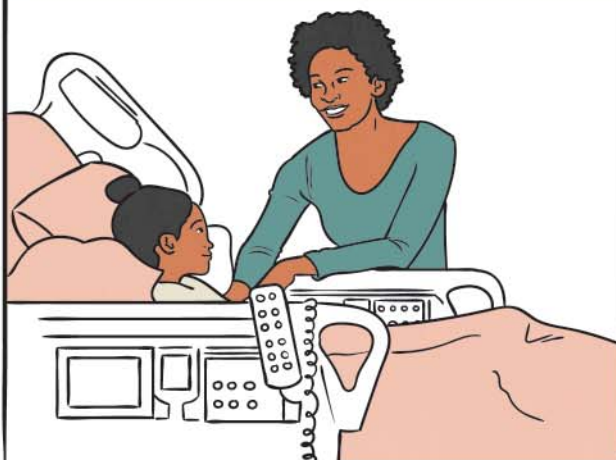


BEWARE:

To qualify for the 10-year law, which is called "Cancellation of Removal," a person must provide documents that prove **3 things**:



1. His/her deportation would cause a U.S. citizen or permanent resident child, spouse, or parent a **hardship** that is much greater than what every other person would suffer if deported.



2. He/she has no disqualifying criminal record, has **good moral character**, and deserves to be allowed to remain in the U.S.

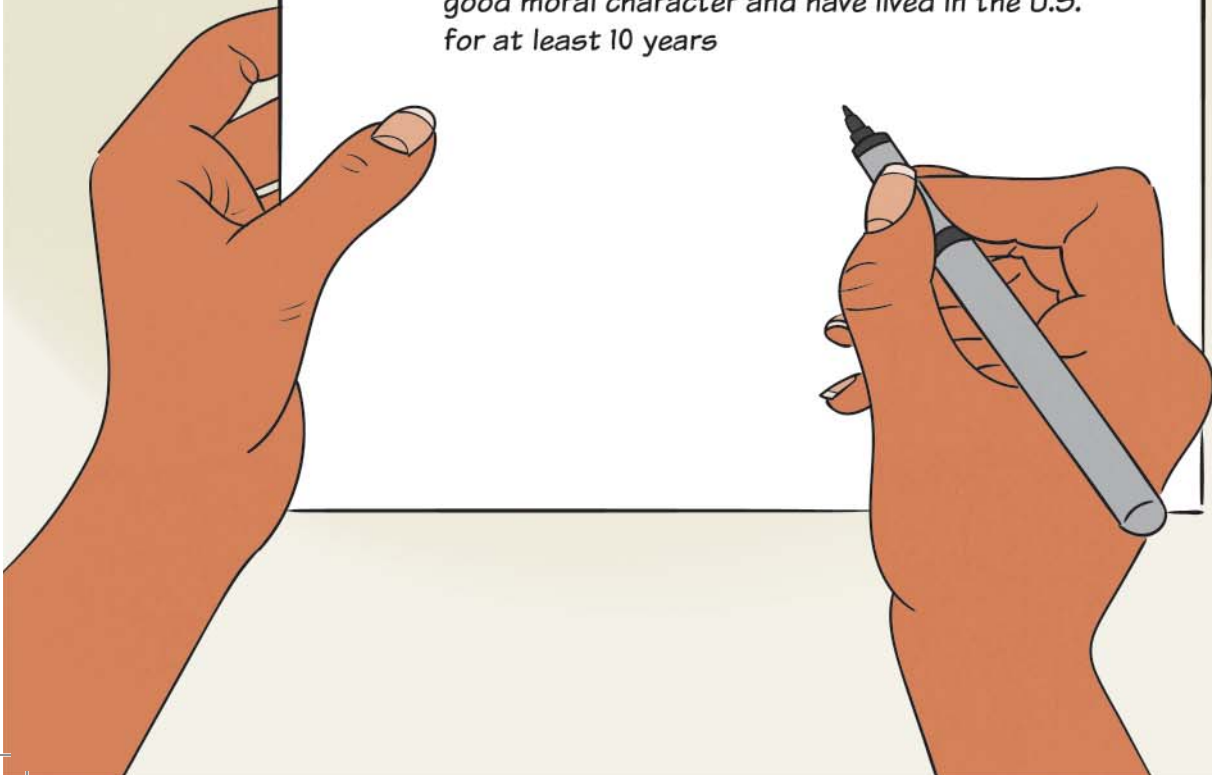


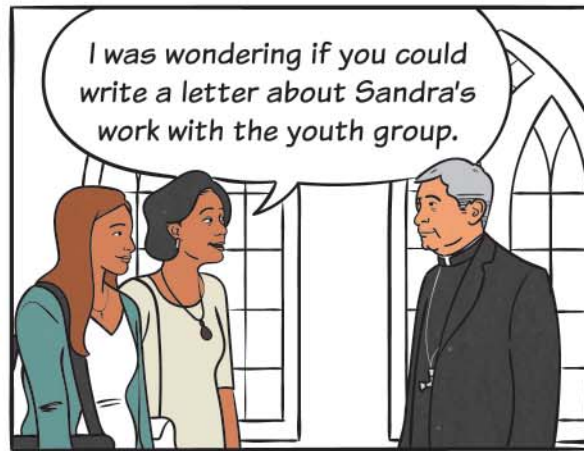
3. He/she has **not left the U.S.** during the 10 years for any long or significant trips.



Here is a list of some documents you should gather in case you end up in front of a judge and need to apply for the ten-year law.

- Birth certificates of the U.S. citizen children*
- Medical reports that show medical hardship to a U.S. citizen or permanent resident child or other family member if you had to leave the country*
- Other documents that show hardship to U.S. citizen or permanent resident family members*
- School records for the children*
- Your employment and tax records*
- Letters and other documents showing you have good moral character and have lived in the U.S. for at least 10 years*





I wonder if my car accident would count against me.

It was 14 years ago. You were only 18.

But I had to go to court and pay the fine. Remember what the lawyer said about a criminal record?

Yes, you should call the lawyer and get his opinion.

I should find the court papers to show him too.





BEWARE:

A criminal record can affect your ability to qualify for many kinds of immigration status, *including the 10-year law*. A criminal record can sometimes lead to deportation too.

It is important to get a copy of *ALL* your criminal records and go over them with a lawyer.

The lawyer should tell you whether the criminal record can prevent you from staying in the U.S.





ALWAYS seek help from a lawyer or a reliable community organization!

Greater Boston Legal Services

197 Friend Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 371-1234
<https://www.gbls.org/>

MetroWest Legal Services

63 Fountain Street, Suite 304
Framingham, MA 01702
(508) 620-1830 ext. 234
<http://www.mwlegal.org>

**East Boston Ecumenical
Community Council**

50 Meridian Street, Suite B-1
East Boston, MA 02128
(617) 567-2750
<http://www.ebecc.org/>

Centro Presente

12 Bennington Street, Suite 202
East Boston, MA 02128
(857) 256-2981
<http://www.cpresente.org/>

Northeast Legal Aid

181 Union St., Ste. 201, Lynn, MA
50 Island St., #203A, Lawrence, MA
35 Merrimack St., Ste. 302, Lowell
(978) 458-1465 | 1-800-336-2262
<http://www.northeastlegalaid.org/>

**Catholic Charities Refugee and
Immigrant Services**

275 West Broadway
South Boston, MA 02127
(617) 451-7979
Haitian TPS: (617) 464-8004
<http://www.ccab.org/>

**Irish International Immigrant
Center**

One State Street, Suite 800
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 542-7654
<http://www.iiicenter.org/>

**Political Asylum/Immigration
Representation Project**

98 N Washington Street, Suite 106
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 742-9296
<http://pairproject.org/>

**Community Legal Services &
Counseling Center**

1 West Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 661-1010
<http://www.clsacc.org>

**Community Legal Aid and
Central West Justice Center**

405 Main St., 4th Fl., Worcester, MA
(508) 752-3718
1 Monarch Pl., Ste. 400, Springfield
(413) 781-7814
<http://www.communitylegal.org/>

**Catholic Social Services of Fall
River**

1600 Bay Street
Fall River, MA 02724
(508) 674-4681
<http://www.cssdioc.org>

**Ascentria Immigration Legal
Assistance Program**

11 Shattuck Street
Worcester, MA 01605
(774) 243-3045
<http://www.ascentria.org/ilap>

Victim Rights Law Center

115 Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 399-6720
<http://www.victimrights.org/>

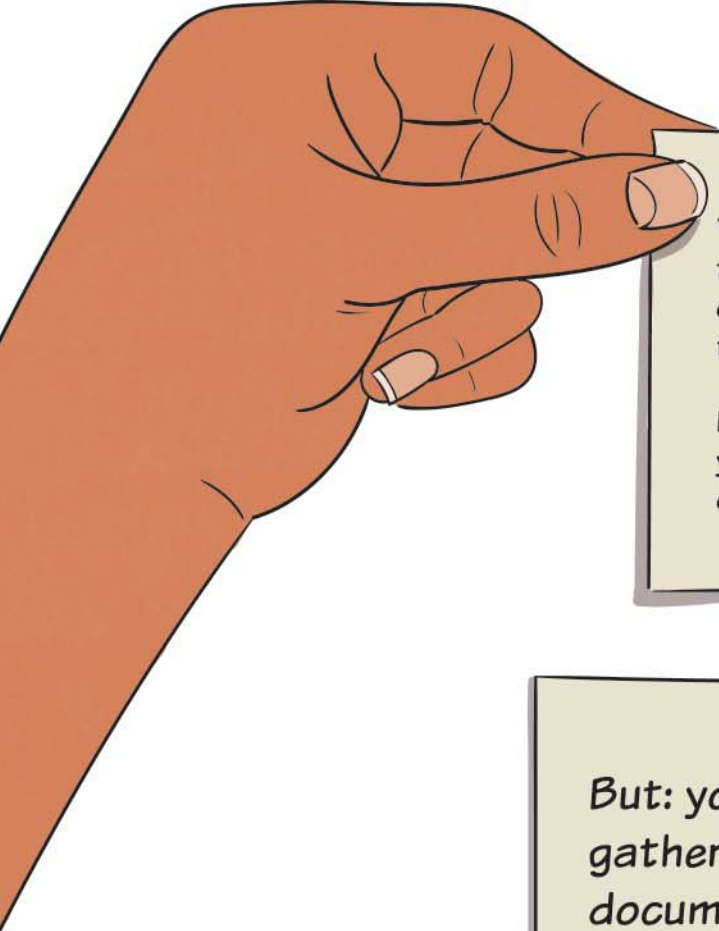
Berkshire Immigrant Center

First Baptist Church
88 South Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 445-4881
<http://berkshireic.com/>

**Justice Center of Southeast
Massachusetts LLC**

231 Main St., Ste. 201, Brockton, MA
(508) 586-2110
460 West Main St., Hyannis, MA
(508) 775-7020
22 Bedford St., Fall River, MA
(508) 676-6265
<http://www.sccls.org/>

Remember:

A hand with a brown skin tone is shown from the left, holding a light green rectangular note. The hand is positioned as if presenting the note to the viewer.

You must talk to a lawyer to see if the 10-year law could ever help you in the future.

Even if this law could help you, you must wait for a chance to apply.

But: you *can* start gathering your documents now.

the end



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