

## Glossary

- **Continuous residence:** For a detailed explanation, go to the [USCIS Policy Manual, Chapter 3: Continuous Residence](#).
- **DACA:** Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, a program launched in 2012. For more information, go to the [Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\)](#) page.
- **Deferred action:** A use of prosecutorial discretion to not remove an individual from the country for a set period of time, unless the deferred action is terminated for some reason. Deferred action is determined on a case-by-case basis and only establishes lawful presence but does not provide immigration status or benefits of any kind. DACA is one type of deferred action.
- **Parole in place:** Immigration and Nationality Act section 212(d)(5)(A) gives the Secretary the discretion, on a case-by-case basis, to “parole” for “urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit” an alien applying for admission to the United States. Although it is most frequently used to permit an alien who is outside the United States to come into U.S. territory, parole may also be granted to aliens who are already physically present in the U.S. without inspection or admission. This latter use of parole is sometimes called “parole in place.”
- **Prosecutorial discretion:** The legal authority to choose whether or not to take action against an individual for committing an offense.
- **Provisional waiver:** Waiver for individuals who are otherwise inadmissible due to more than 180 days of unlawful presence in the United States, based on a showing of extreme hardship to certain U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident family members, which allows the individual to return after departure for an immigrant visa interview at a U.S. embassy or consulate. For more information, go to the [Provisional Unlawful Presence Waivers](#) page.

You can find definitions of other terms used on the USCIS website in [Glossary of Terms](#).