

‘90-Day Fiancé’ – The K-1 Fiancé Visa in the United States

Article By:

Norris McLaughlin P.A.

90 Day Fiancé,” one of the popular shows on the *TLC* network, shows the journey of romance through the culture clashes and mainly the tedious process through the American immigration system. Showcasing the love story between an American citizen and a foreign national, the show portrays their journey, highlighting thought-provoking elements of comedy, shocking revelations, and skepticism.

Season 8 of the show ended in April, and the next series premieres its sixth season of “90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?” This secondary show catches up on the lives of the most memorable couples from the past seasons.

What Is the K-1 Fiancé Visa?

A U.S. citizen can bring their fiancé to the U.S. if they intend to marry their fiancé within 90 days of admission to the U.S. on a K-1 nonimmigrant visa. Once the foreign fiancé marries the U.S. citizen, they can apply for lawful permanent residency (the green card).

Both the U.S. citizen and the foreign fiancé must be legally free to marry, having terminated any previous marriages. The U.S. citizen and the fiancé must have met each other in person at least once in the two years before the fiancé visa application is filed (certain cultures may get waivers for this requirement if one can establish that this will violate long-established practices).

A fiancé visa is not available to individuals who are already married, plan on getting married outside the U.S., or if the fiancé is already residing in the U.S. in legal status.

U.S. Citizens and Their Fiancés’ Immigration Struggles

The K-1 Fiancé visa is not one that is commonly used fewer than 1% of K-1 visas were approved last year. It is much more common for a foreign national to enter the country with a visitor’s visa and then marry their loved one.

The complete K-1 visa approach to getting a legal permanent card is a five-step process:

1. The U.S citizen petitions with the [United States Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\)](#)

, presenting all the required documentation.

2. Once the application is approved by the [National Visa Center \(NVC\)](#), the fiancé will apply for the K-1 visa, complete the required forms, and attend the visa interview. Once the consular officer approves the visa, the fiancé has six months to enter the U.S.
3. The [Customs and Border Patrol \(CBP\)](#) Officer will make a final determination at the port of entry. Having an approved visa does not guarantee entry to the U.S.
4. The fiancé and the U.S. citizen must marry within 90 days of entering the U.S.
5. The U.S. citizen spouse can file for Form I-485, Application to Adjust Status.

If the U.S. citizen's fiancé is from a country that is under a travel ban, that adds a hurdle, making it impossible to bring them into the United States. If the fiancé is not a citizen of a country that allows citizens to travel to the U.S. for 90 days without visas, then the individual must go through a consular official to enter the U.S.

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