

Family Reunification Fact Sheet: Lautenberg Affidavits of Relationship (AORs)

The Lautenberg Amendment allows certain individuals from the Former Soviet Union to qualify for refugee status if they wish to resettle to the United States. Eligible US relatives may file a Lautenberg Affidavit of Relationship (AOR) on behalf of their immediate relatives living in the Former Soviet Union (FSU) that are religious minorities facing persecution. The applicants on the AOR must also submit a Preliminary Questionnaire (PQ) for each relative 14 years or older, along with supporting documents. Refugees approved through this program are processed out of the Resettlement Support Center (RSC) in Moscow, which is operated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The Lautenberg Amendment expires on a yearly basis and must be reauthorized each fiscal year by Congress. The amendment has been extended each year since it was first enacted in 1990.

Am I eligible to file a Lautenberg AOR?

You are eligible to file a Lautenberg AOR if you meet the following requirements:

- ✓ You are a legal US resident
- ✓ You are 18 years or older

You can file for the following relatives on a Lautenberg AOR:

- ✓ Spouses
- ✓ Parents
- ✓ Children
- ✓ Siblings
- ✓ Grandparents
- ✓ Grandchildren – must be age 18 or older
- ✓ Nephews and Nieces can be added on if siblings have children living in the same household

All applications will be considered, but preference for refugee status interviews is given to specific categories of applicants, which include citizens of the FSU presently residing in the territory of the FSU who have been identified by Congress as likely targets of persecution during the Soviet era:

- ✓ Jews
- ✓ Evangelical Christians
- ✓ Ukrainian Catholics
- ✓ Members of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church

Documentation

In addition to filing a Lautenberg AOR, you must provide additional documentation to prove the eligibility of each applicant. The AOR and supporting documents will be mailed by CWS to the Resettlement Support Center in Moscow, where all the applications will be processed.

Preliminary Questionnaire (PQ)

This questionnaire contains a set of 31 questions that must be answered and signed by all applicants on the AOR 14 years and older. You must submit the questionnaires along with the AOR and supporting documents to your local CWS affiliate.

When filling out the questionnaire, please keep the following in mind:

- ✓ It should be filled out in English, but Ukrainian and Russian are also acceptable if English is not possible
- ✓ It must be filled out and signed by the person for whom it is intended

What additional supporting documents do I need to provide?

In addition to the PQ and the AOR, the following supporting documents must be provided for each applicant, including for children:

- ✓ Copy of travel **or** internal passport's biographical page for all applicants
- ✓ Proof of anchor's immigration status: legible copies of both sides of I-94 or LPR card, copy of Naturalization Certificate for US Citizens

Is there a cost to filing a Lautenberg AOR?

No. Filing an application is free of charge. If you wish to file an AOR, you **must** file at a local affiliate of one of the 9 national Resettlement Agencies in the US. CWS has many affiliates throughout the country where you can file an AOR. You can access a list of all the Resettlement Agencies in the US [here](#).