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## **FAMILY-BASED IMMIGRATION**

Historically, family reunification has been the principal policy underpinning U.S. immigration law.

Family-based immigration, a tightly regulated system, allows for close relatives of U.S. Citizens and Legal Permanent Residents (LPR) to rejoin their families here in America.

Family-based immigrants are admitted to the U.S. either as immediate relatives of U.S. citizens or through the family preference system.

### **Immediate Relatives are:**

- \_ Spouses of U.S. citizens;
- \_ Unmarried minor children of U.S. citizens; and
- \_ Parents of U.S. citizens.

There is no cap on the number of visas available every year for immediate relatives.

### **The Family Preference System allows into the U.S.:**

- \_ Adult children (unmarried and married) and brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens; and
- \_ Spouses and unmarried children (minor and adult) of LPRs.

There are a limited number of visas available every year under the Family Preference system.

Under current immigration law, visas are allocated as follows:

**The Family Preference System**

<b>U.S. Sponsor</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Preference #</b>	<b>Visa Allocated</b>
U.S. Citizen	unmarried adult children	1 <sup>st</sup> Preference	23,400 visas/yr[1]
LPR	spouses and minor children	2 <sup>nd</sup> A Preference	87,900 visas/yr
LPR	unmarried adult children(21 yrs or older)	2 <sup>nd</sup> B Preference	26,300 visas/yr
U.S. Citizen	married adult children	3 <sup>rd</sup> Preference	23,400 visas/yr[2]
U.S. Citizen	brothers and sisters(21 yrs or older)	4 <sup>th</sup> Preference	65,000 visas/yr[3]