

Applying for a Transportation Letter (from Dec 23, 2016)

If you are a permanent resident of the United States and in Germany, but seeking to return to the United States and do not have your permanent resident card, you may need a transportation letter to return to the United States (*see exceptions below).

1. **Go to the USCIS website** at <https://www.uscis.gov/i-131a> to get the Form I-131A and filing instructions.
2. **Pay the fee for the I-131A online in ELIS** - The fee of \$575.00 must be paid online prior to your appointment at the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt. There is no other method of payment.
Click here to pay online: <https://public-prod-elis2.uscis.dhs.gov/efile/app/app/travel/#/>.
Bring a copy of the receipt to your appointment, or email a copy to us at uscis.frankfurt@uscis.dhs.gov.
 - ✓ Be sure to read the instructions before you apply, as the fee is non-refundable.
3. **Schedule your USCIS InfoPass appointment** - The appointment must take place within 30 days of your intended return to the United States. Only make your InfoPass appointment once you have completed the form and paid the fee. To make an appointment go to: <https://my.uscis.gov/appointment>.
4. **Prepare the required documents** - Bring the following documents to your appointment: 1) valid passport *and* a photocopy of the biometric page of your passport; 2) completed Form I-131A; 3) payment receipt for fee in ELIS; 4) one passport-style photograph; 5) *copy* of your flight ticket/electronic itinerary *for our records* showing your last departure from the United States and return travel to United States; and 6) proof of your permanent resident status (if available).
5. **Come to the appointment at the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt** - Transportation letters are issued on the same day, provided you come with all the required documents and have paid the filing fee in advance. The issued letters are valid for 30 days.

***Expired Permanent Resident Cards** - If you have an expired permanent resident card with a 10-year validity period, you do not need a transportation letter. The airline may board you with the expired card, providing you meet all their other conditions for travel.

****U.S. Military Family Members with expired Permanent Resident Cards** - You do not require a transportation letter if you are in possession of an expired permanent resident card with a 10-year validity period, and you are now returning after having resided outside the United States on official overseas U.S. military orders. You may travel with your expired card and military orders.

*****Baby Transportation Letters** - No fee or form is required for these transportation letters - see our webpage for more information about who is eligible and how to obtain a letter for your child.