H-1B Status Check: The Comprehensive Guide to H-1B Receipt Tracking for Immigration Attorneys

written by Clare Sheehan | March 24, 2026



Cap season moves fast for immigration attorneys. Filing windows are tight as case volumes surge, and employers and hopeful petitioners both rely on accurate updates as H-1B petitions move through the system.

At this pace, efficient H-1B receipt tracking is essential. Attorneys need to know where each case stands and be ready to answer questions the client may have, with nothing slipping through the cracks.

This guide walks through how to check H-1B processing status for your clients. We also look at how immigration form filling systems and case management systems can help firms move cases faster, improve client communication and collaboration, and streamline USCIS oversight across your firm.

What is H-1B Visa Status?

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) H-1B status is a designation that allows US employers to sponsor foreign professionals in specialty occupations. Typically, this means sought-after roles in engineering, medical, and other STEM fields. As H-1B status is employer-specific and involves complex documentation, most applicants rely on law firms for support.

This reliance on legal expertise means it is essential for law firms to stay on top of not just individual cases but also the regulatory frameworks around H-1B status.

Most recent regulatory updates have focused on streamlining the registration system. However, there have also been shifts that change how firms manage and prepare petitions, including:

- The introduction of a fee for non-exempt H-1B petitions
- A new weighted selection process (as of the 2027 season) and a unique beneficiary focus
- Changes to extension processes and owner restrictions

Keeping up with these changes raises the demand on law firms for structured processes. Not only must the changes themselves be properly tracked, but deadlines and case statuses must also be managed by efficient internal processes. This can be done by:

- Embedding key milestones into firm workflows, so your team is ready for action when rules change
- Using workflow automation to designate who tracks regulatory updates
- Setting alerts and status checks in case management
- Integrating collaboration tools so updates aren't siloed or missed

Firms need these structured workflows, tied to up-to-date USCIS forms and centralized document control, to avoid delays, version confusion, and outdated filings. That's where immigration case management software, like LollyLaw, improves how you work.

Why Track Your H-1B Status?

For lawyers with hopeful candidates, a visa status check with USCIS isn't just an administrative check box. It's thoughtful and proactive risk management for your client.

Petition delays, Requests for Evidence (RFEs), or unexpected changes are the main reasons for sudden changes. Proactively monitoring case status helps attorneys to keep clients informed, anticipate potential challenges, and guide clients through time-sensitive decisions.

Tracking H-1B status helps attorneys support their clients by:

- **Anticipating and responding quickly to Request for Evidence (RFE)**: With tracked filing dates and organized digital copies of prior filings, you can respond faster. LollyLaw supports assigned responsibilities and tracks deadlines in one centralized system.
- **Advising clients on portability or start-date timing**: Real-time alerts help you serve clients faster, so they can better plan the logistics of their employment and travel plans. Centralized dashboards and secure client portals, like LollyLaw's, let you communicate with them in real time.
- **Managing "cap-gap" and extension scenarios**: Clear tracking and calendared dates help you manage time during peak seasons. LollyLaw's automated reminders and milestone tracking promote consistency across casework, allowing you to meet every deadline.
- **Coordinating consular processing logistics:** Case tracking and simple document access ensure clients are better prepared for consular appointments and document reviews. With a shared document workspace like LollyLaw's, you can upload, review, and finalize materials in real time for minimal delays.

Centralized case management and automated form workflows, like LollyLaw's, help firms act quickly and keep clients informed.

With the recent operational changes, checking H-1B processing status and H-1B receipt tracking is even more critical for law firms.

How USCIS Case Status Tracking Works

For each filed petition, USCIS assigns a 13-character receipt number. You'll find it on the Form I-797 Notice of Action, which will serve as the primary case tracker.

H-1B receipt tracking is done through the USCIS Case Status Online portal, which gives high-level updates. For more comprehensive control, lawyers will often add internal tracking systems, such as:

- **Attorney account dashboards**: Linked portals to view multiple cases centrally, monitor updates, and receive notifications.
- **Internal case management software**: Systems to track deadlines and milestones, and manage document versions and task assignments. They reduce reliance on spreadsheets and ensure structured workflows.
- **Email/text notification subscriptions**: Alert automation notifies attorneys of USCIS status updates, enabling quick responses.

Managing these platforms separately can work for small caseloads. However, using supportive software like LollyLaw gives firms a central immigration case management platform for managing deadlines, documents, and tasks, simplifying the entire process. You can also automate over 125 regularly updated USCIS forms, and communicate securely with clients in real time.

With better visibility over case documents, deadlines, tasks, and status, you can streamline USCIS H-1B status management and case tracking across clients for faster turnarounds.

Creating and Using Your USCIS Immigration Attorney Account

USCIS offers attorney-specific online accounts for improved H-1B receipt tracking and oversight when working with multiple clients. You can create your representative account for electronic management and tracking of some case types by:

- Creating an online attorney account at myaccount.uscis.gov
- Verifying your credentials and identity, and establishing two-factor authentication
- Linking eligible client cases using online access codes

You will then link your client's H-1B petition by:

- Logging in to your USCIS account online
- Selecting "add a client"
- Entering their information and H-1B receipt tracking number
- Following the prompts

It's important to note that you will not be able to manage H-1B petitions fully online with just a USCIS immigration attorney account. Lawyers can, however, receive notices and upload documents there, and centralize communication with USCIS.

How to Use the USCIS Case Status Online Tool

For a straightforward USCIS H-1B registration status check, you can also use the real-time USCIS Case Status Online tool by:

- Navigating to the USCIS Case Status Online portal
- Entering the H-1B receipt tracking number
- Submitting to see the current status or instructions

If you want automatic case updates sent directly when your client's case status changes, you can sign up for notifications in the portal.

Understanding the Different USCIS Case Status Updates

The status updates you see let you check your client's H-1B processing status and anticipate what comes next.

Many of these updates are simple, like "Received" (the petition is being processed), "Approved" or "Denied." "Request for Evidence" indicates that additional documentation is needed, and you may see statuses like "Transferred" if the petition changes service centers.

As each status change impacts the client's case, it is important to check H-1B status regularly.

Tips for Efficient USCIS Case Tracking

When it comes to H-1B status checks, your efficiency strengthens client trust while supporting compliance and oversight. Try these tips to help you improve your tracking of H-1B visa statuses for clients:

- Centralize data in a case management system like LollyLaw, so your team works from the same up-to-date forms and case data without version confusion
- Enable automated USCIS notifications for faster responses
- Track deadlines with automated reminders
- Trigger client questionnaires automatically when information is needed
- Monitor status updates weekly

LollyLaw can help you further improve with real-time collaboration to minimize turnaround and automatically fill form fields with stored client information. The software can also pull lists of cases by H-1B visa status or deadline for internal tracking and prioritization. LollyLaw's Client Bridge enables you to share these updates and notifications securely, in the client's language of choice.

LollyLaw: Simplifying H-1B Receipt Tracking and USCIS Case Tracking

As USCIS case tracking and H-1B visa status checks grow more complex, lawyers need structured systems, not spreadsheets, to manage the petition lifecycle. LollyLaw's immigration law practice software is built to support efficient tracking and workflow management across immigration matters.

We've explored how features like central case management, reporting insights, and the Client Bridge can help you track and manage case status more efficiently. With LollyLaw's custom immigration workflows and milestone tracking, you can ensure you meet all USCIS checkpoints, with nothing overlooked.

Reduce the risk of outdated filings with LollyLaw's library of over 125 USCIS forms, updated within an hour after every agency release, eliminating the need to hunt for the latest versions. Additionally, LollyLaw helps you streamline data collection through intake questionnaires in over 20 languages that sync directly to immigration forms.

And now with LollyLaw's native document management system, all documents related to your H-1B cases can be securely stored, organized by client and matter, and accessed directly within the platform.

To explore how LollyLaw supports simpler H-1B receipt tracking and immigration matters, get a demo

today.

Frequently Asked Client Questions

What does H-1B visa status mean?

With H-1B status, foreign nationals can work in specialty occupations in the US, typically needing a tertiary education. Applicants can only work for the employer that files the approved petition with USCIS.

How can I extend my H-1B status beyond six years?

H-1B status extensions are available, depending on immigration history, employment status, and timing:

- A one-year extension if a PERM labor certification or I-140 immigration petition is correctly filed at least a year before the H-1B expiration date.
- Three-year extensions if an I-140 petition has been approved, but green cards are not yet available.

These are guidelines for extending your client's H-1B status beyond six years. Review the specific legislative requirements to ensure your client qualifies for extensions.

How often should I check my H-1B status?

An H-1B status check is wise:

- During USCIS filing
- Before international travel
- Before changing employers
- When approaching expiration

You can check H-1B status online with the USCIS receipt number.

How long does it take to get H-1B status?

Expect six to ten months for standard H-1B processing, while premium processing takes 15 days, depending on case type and current USCIS processing times.

How long can someone with an H-1B stay in the US?

USCIS H-1B status lets you stay up to six years, with time spent outside the US acting as a "pause." Extensions are possible if green card processes are underway.