## PUBLIC CHARGE AND IMMIGRATION LAW

## 3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	1
§ 1.1	Purpose of This Manual	1
§ 1.2	Contents of This Manual	
§ 1.3	Staying Informed and Getting Involved	4
CHAPTER 2	BRIEF HISTORY OF PUBLIC CHARGE	5
§ 2.1	History and Evolution of Public Charge	5
§ 2.2	Department of Homeland Security 2022 Rule on Public Charge	12
§ 2.3	Status of Department of State Public Charge Rule	
§ 2.4	Status of the Public Charge Ground of Deportability	14
§ 2.5	COVID-19 and Public Charge	15
§ 2.6	What Happens Next?	16
CHAPTER 3	PUBLIC CHARGE AS A GROUND OF INADMISSIBILITY	17
§ 3.1	The Statute on Public Charge Inadmissibility: INA § 212(a)(4)	18
§ 3.2	Inadmissibility Generally	19
§ 3.3	Overview of the "Public Charge" Inadmissibility Ground	24
§ 3.4	Definition of Public Charge	24
§ 3.5	Who Is Subject to the Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility?	28
§ 3.6	Who Is Not Subject to the Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility?	29
§ 3.7	Considerations When a Client "Switches Tracks" to Apply for	
	Adjustment of Status or Consular Processing Based on a Family or	
	Employer Petition	32
§ 3.8	Public Benefits Considered in the Public Charge Assessment	35
§ 3.9	Public Benefits Exempt from the Public Charge Assessment	38
§ 3.10	Adjudicating Public Charge: Overview of Public Charge Tests	40
§ 3.11	Summary of the Changes to Public Charge Policy Under the New Rule	41
§ 3.12	Waiver and Bond	
§ 3.13	Impact of Negative Public Charge Determination	43
§ 3.14	Important Takeaways	43
§ 3.15	Which Public Charge Policy Applies?	44
CHAPTER 4	ASSESSING PUBLIC CHARGE	47
§ 4.1	Overview of Public Charge	47
§ 4.2	Adjudicating the Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility	48
§ 4.3	Adjusting Status in the United States vs. Processing at the Consulate	49
§ 4.4	The "Totality of the Circumstances" Test in Adjustment of Status Cases	51

§ 4.5	Using Current Factors to Assess Future Likelihood	52
§ 4.6	Current USCIS Public Charge Policy	53
§ 4.7	Prior Use of Benefits as a Factor	62
§ 4.8	Receipt of Benefits by Family Members	65
§ 4.9	Decision and Bond	66
CHAPTER 5	THE AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT	69
§ 5.1	Overview of the Affidavit of Support Requirement	70
§ 5.2	Who Can Submit the Affidavit of Support as a Sponsor	71
§ 5.3	What the Sponsor Must Earn	73
§ 5.4	How to Satisfy the Affidavit of Support Requirement if the Petitioner	
	Does Not Earn Enough Money	
§ 5.5	Sponsor Obligations Under the Affidavit of Support	81
§ 5.6	Exemptions to the Affidavit of Support Requirement for Family Immigrants	84
CHAPTER 6	AFFIDAVIT OF SUPPORT PROCESS	89
§ 6.1	Overview of the Affidavit of Support Process	89
§ 6.2	Completing Form I-864 and the Affidavit of Support Packet	
§ 6.3	Completing Form I-864W, Affidavit of Support Exemption	98
CHAPTER 7	PUBLIC CHARGE AND CONSULAR PROCESSING	99
§ 7.1	Public Charge Inadmissibility and Consular Processing	99
§ 7.2	Department of State's Foreign Affairs Manual Guidance on Public	
	Charge	101
§ 7.3	Preparing Consular Processing Clients for Public Charge Issues	107
§ 7.4	Special Considerations for Public Charge and Consular Processing	110
CHAPTER 8	PUBLIC CHARGE AS A GROUND OF DEPORTABILITY	115
§ 8.1	Introduction to the Public Charge Deportability Ground	115
§ 8.2	When Does a Ground of Deportability Apply?	
§ 8.3	Definition of Public Charge	
§ 8.4	Requirements to Prove Public Charge Deportability	118
§ 8.5	Practical Application of Public Charge and Deportability	
CHAPTER 9	CONSIDERATIONS FOR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENTS AND	
	NATURALIZATION APPLICANTS	125
§ 9.1	Introduction	125
§ 9.2	No Public Charge Test for Naturalization	
§ 9.3	Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility and Its Effect on LPRs	128
§ 9.4	Public Charge Ground of Deportability and Its Effect on LPRs	133
§ 9.5	Importance of Screening Naturalization Applicants and Advising LPRs	
	Regarding Public Benefits and Travel	133

Considerations Involving Fee Waivers	136
Best Practices for Naturalization Workshops	139
INDEX OF APPENDICES	
USCIS Public Charge Resources—Questions and Answers about Public	
Charge (July 10, 2023)	141
1999 Field Guidance on Public Charge Inadmissibility	157
2023 I-864P, HHS Poverty Guidelines for the Affidavit of Support	162
Sample Completed I-864 Affidavit of Support	166
2022 DHS Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds Final Rule	
9 FAM 302.8, Foreign Affairs Manual Guidance on Public Charge	
Inadmissibility (July 29, 2022)	345
	INDEX OF APPENDICES  USCIS Public Charge Resources—Questions and Answers about Public Charge (July 10, 2023)