

HELS - FAQs

Updated 8/28/25

What kinds of immigration services does HELS offer?

HELS attorneys and Accredited Representatives can provide a wide range of immigration legal services, such as

- Immigration consultations
- DACA Renewals
- Naturalizations
- Family-based immigration
- Know Your Rights sessions

HELS does not do student visas or business-related immigration, but we can consult with people on with any status about their options. We cannot assist in other areas of the law, such as family, tax or criminal law.

Do I have to be Jewish to access services?

No! HELS and Jewish Family Service serve people of all faiths and backgrounds, regardless of religion, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, ability, gender identity/expression, or sexual orientation.

Who is eligible for services?

HELS services are available to the **Community College** and **California State University** communities in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Current students, staff, and faculty of both systems can come to HELS for help.

And at the CSU campuses, San Diego State University and Cal State San Marcos, immediate relatives (spouse, parents, children, and siblings) are also eligible. What's more, alumni continue to be eligible for two years after graduation from CSU.

What do HELS “free” services include?

Anyone who comes to HELS will not have to pay anything for consultation, legal assessment, or completing an application. Our services are entirely free.

However, any fees required by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to apply for a benefit or process an application are responsibility of the applicant. These fees vary according to the type of application.

Where will my appointment take place?

Appointments can take place in-person at your campus, at the JFS main office or on Zoom. You can choose where you would like your appointment when you sign up through our online scheduler at www.jfssd.org/HELS.

Will my school know about my appointment?

No. Services are confidential from the moment the appointment is scheduled. HELS will not communicate any details of a case to anyone unless express permission is given.

How can I schedule an appointment with HELS?

If you are interested in scheduling an appointment, you may do so by phone: (858) 637-3345, email: helsimmigration@jfssd.org, or directly via our website: www.jfssd.org/HELS.

What other ways can I stay up to date with HELS?

Follow us on Instagram @[hels_sd](https://www.instagram.com/hels_sd) to find out about upcoming presentations and policy updates. Visit our website www.jfssd.org/HELS, call us at 858-637-3345 or email helsimmigration@jfssd.org to learn more.

Where can I get immigration services if I'm not eligible for HELS?

JFS Immigration Legal Services Department offers free immigration legal services to low income individuals who live in San Diego County. To find out about eligibility for these services please visit www.jfssd.org/AS, email immigration@jfssd.org or call (858) 637-3365.