



Ask the Experts:

What the End of Duration of Status Means for Individuals

Megan Kludt | Anabel Nataros

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Agenda

- Recap of Rule and Timeline
- What Hasn't Changed
- Transition Provisions
- Grace Period and Impact on OPT/STEM-OPT Filing
- Filing an Extension of Stay
- Reminders for J-1s
- Reminders for Dependents
- Common Mistakes to Avoid



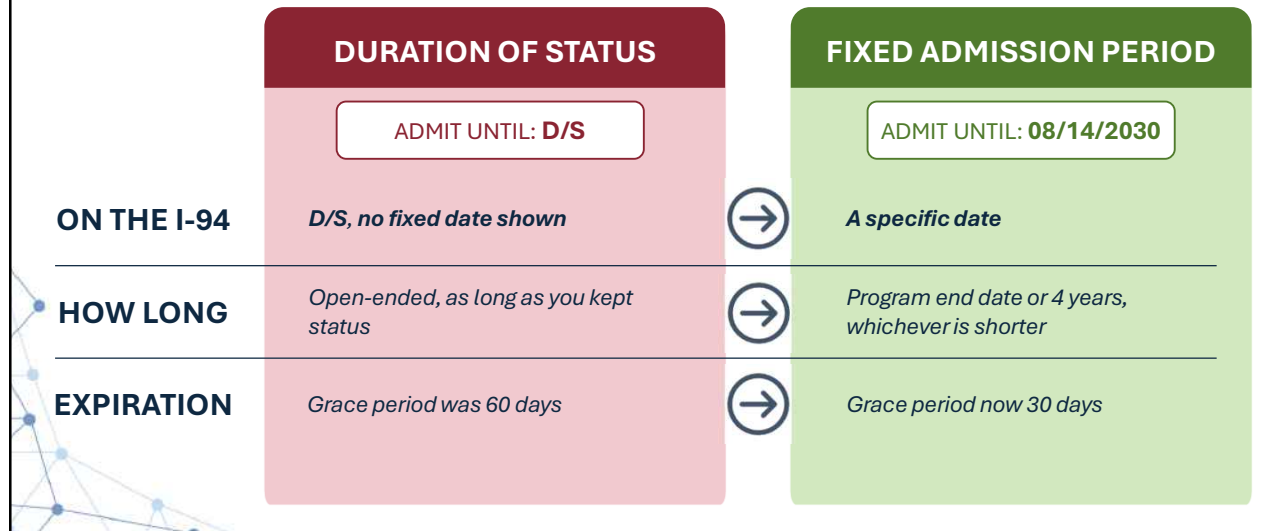
Megan Kludt
Senior Associate



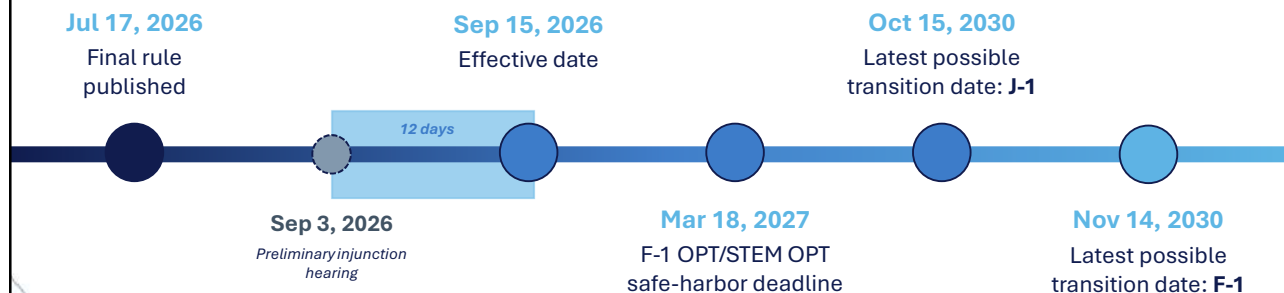
Anabel Nataros
Senior Associate

A Recap of the Rule Change

F-1 STUDENTS · J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS · I FOREIGN MEDIA



Key Dates on Your Calendar



This rule is being litigated. *NAFSA et al. v. DHS* was filed August 18, 2026; a preliminary-injunction hearing took place on September 3, 2026. As of today, there is no ruling, so plan as though these dates apply and monitor your school's official communications for updates.

What Hasn't Changed



Your Academic Program

This does not shorten your degree program or coursework requirements.



Your J-1 Program Length

This does not shorten your J-1 exchange program length.



OPT and STEM OPT Work Authorization

Your work authorization and eligibility are unchanged.



What You're Allowed to Do

What F and J status holders may do in the U.S. hasn't changed.

What changed: how you request, track, and maintain your stay. Not the substance of your program.

Transition Provisions



Are you in the U.S. now on D/S?

YES

No automatic new I-94 is issued.
You continue under the transition provision until the EARLIER of:

Program End Date

Latest transition date

Nov. 14, 2030 (F-1)
Oct. 15, 2030 (J-1)

NO

You are already on the fixed-date system

UNLESS

Triggering Event Occurs: Ending Protection Early



International travel



EOS approval



Change of status

Any of these events move you to the new fixed-date system immediately.



Compare your I-94 date & your I-20 program end date, they should match.



If something looks off, contact your DSO/RO.

F-1: Grace Period & OPT/STEM OPT Timing



Grace period cut from 60 to 30 days. The same 30 days compresses your OPT/STEM OPT filing deadline.

The Rule Change

60 → 30 days post-completion grace period



Overstaying your I-94 now triggers unlawful presence automatically, no formal finding required.



J-1 Note: Your 30-day departure grace period is not changing. It is already 30 days.

EFFECTIVE 9/15/26

The March 18, 2027 Safe Harbor



Applies if you:

- Were admitted under D/S before September 15, 2026, *and*
- Timely file Form I-765 for OPT or STEM OPT on or before March 18, 2027.



No separate EOS needed

You do not need a separate extension of stay just for that OPT/STEM OPT filing.



Travel voids the harbor

International travel and readmission before filing under the new system cancels this safe harbor protection.

Extension of Stay: *How to File for Yourself*



1

Know When to File

- Your I-94 date is approaching and you need more time.
- File up to 6 months before your I-94 expires.

2

File Form I-539

- Submitted to USCIS.
- Includes biometrics as part of the process.

3

If It's Still Pending

- You may continue under the 240-day bridge.
- A backstop, not something to plan around.

For J-1 Exchange Visitors



Fixed Admission Date

Your fixed admission date is tied to your DS-2019.

Two-Year Home Residency and Waiver

Two-year home residency and waiver timing may apply. Check with your RO.

Physicians

Your waiver-timing situation is more complex than general J-1 scholars, researchers, and interns.

For F-2 / J-2 Dependents



Tied to the Principal, Not Automatic

Your status is tied to the principal visa holder's status.
You are responsible for filing your own I-539.



Check Your Own I-94 Date

Confirm whether your I-94 date is keeping pace with the principal's.



Have Any I-94 Records Corrected

Reach out to CBP or USCIS.

Common Mistakes to Avoid:

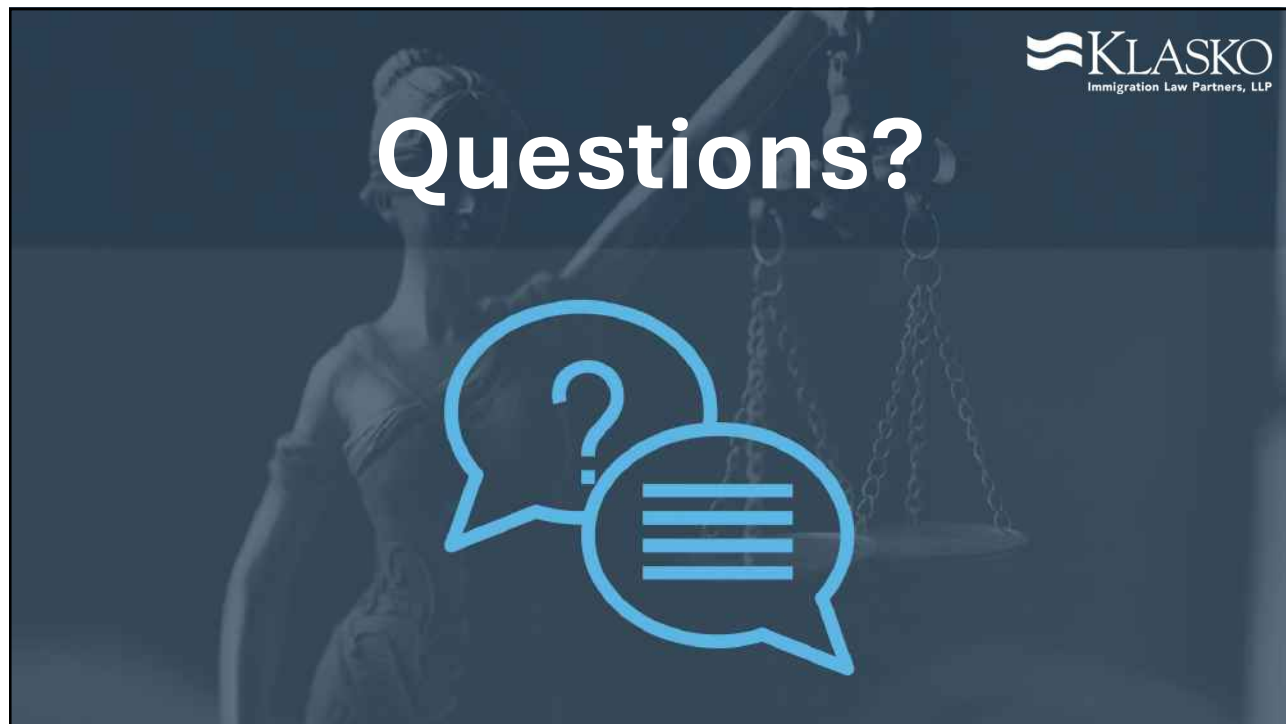
Where to Get Help and Departure

Common Mistakes

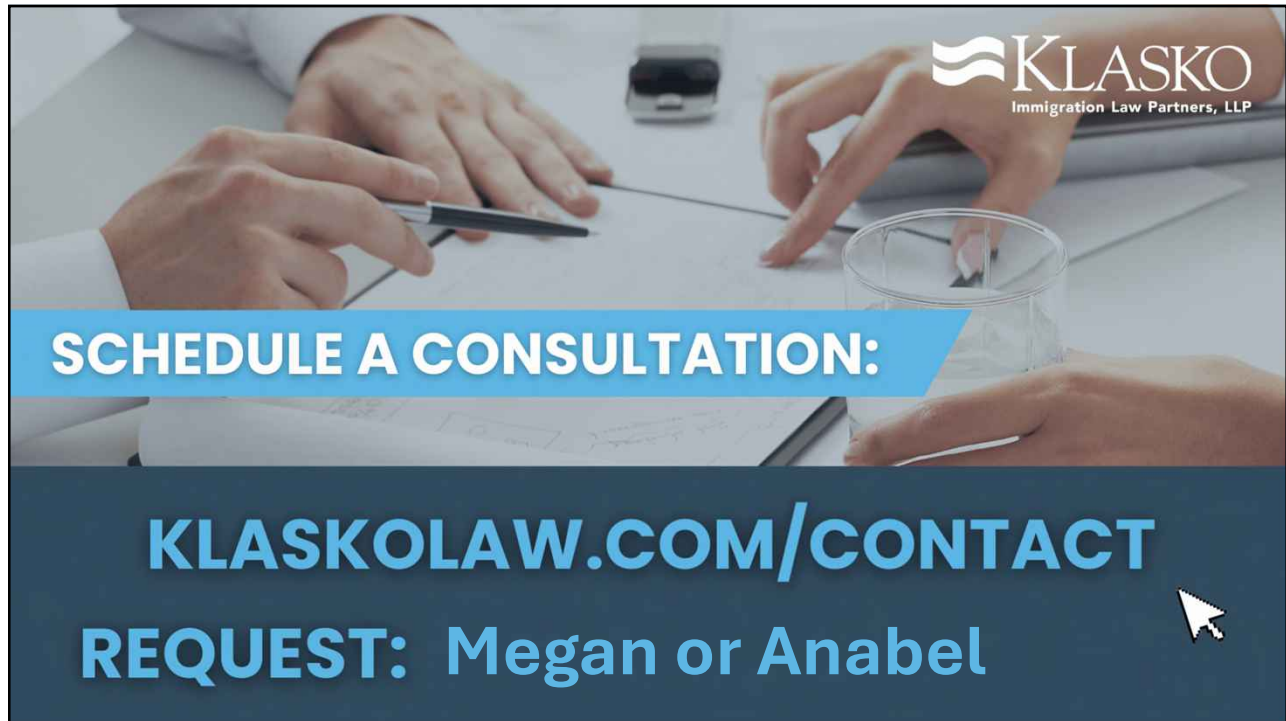
- Traveling without first checking if departing the U.S. will end your transition protection or affect a pending filing.
- Assuming your I-20/DS-2019 date is your status date.
- Waiting too long to ask a question.

Where to Get Help

- Your DSO or RO is your first stop.
- For complex situations, an immigration firm like **Klasko** can help you evaluate your options.



A dark blue slide with a background image of a statue of Lady Justice holding scales. In the top right corner is the Klasko logo, which consists of a stylized 'K' followed by the word 'KLASKO' and 'Immigration Law Partners, LLP' underneath. The text 'For Further Information' is written in large light blue font in the center. Below the text are two rounded rectangular portraits. The left portrait is of Megan Kludt, a woman with brown hair wearing a black blazer over a blue top. Below her portrait is her name 'Megan Kludt' and her email address 'mkludt@klaskolaw.com'. The right portrait is of Anabel Nataros, a woman with brown hair wearing a red blazer over a white top. Below her portrait is her name 'Anabel Nataros' and her email address 'anataros@klaskolaw.com'. In the bottom left corner, there is a decorative graphic of a network of blue dots connected by lines.



SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION:

KLASKOLAW.COM/CONTACT

REQUEST: Megan or Anabel



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