

# Voluntary Departure Options Comparison Guide

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## Understanding Your Options

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When facing removal from the United States, you have several options. This guide compares three main paths: **Court Voluntary Departure**, **Deportation (Removal)**, and the **CBP Home App Self-Deportation Program**.

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# Complete Comparison Table

Factor	Voluntary Departure (Court)	Deportation (Removal)	CBP Home App
<b>Who Grants/Awards</b>	Immigration Judge in court proceedings	Immigration Judge orders; ICE executes	Self-initiated via CBP mobile app
<b>Eligibility Requirements</b>	1 year physical presence, good moral character, no aggravated felony	No eligibility - this is a consequence of removal order	Undocumented status, no serious criminal history
<b>Financial Cost</b>	You pay travel + bond ( 500–10,000)	Government pays (but severe consequences)	<b>FREE flight + \$1,000 stipend</b>
<b>Time to Leave</b>	60-120 days to prepare	Immediate or short notice	Quick departure after approval
<b>Immigration Record</b>	No removal order on record	Formal removal order (permanent)	Self-removal recorded
<b>Re-entry Bars</b>	None from departure itself (unlawful presence bars may apply)	5, 10, or 20 years; permanent for aggravated felony	Depends on circumstances; may face unlawful presence bars
<b>Future Visa Eligibility</b>	Generally eligible to apply	Barred; requires waiver	May be eligible; case-by-case
<b>Control Over Process</b>	High - choose departure date/method	None - ICE controls everything	Moderate - you initiate but CBP schedules
<b>Legal Process Required</b>	Must request in immigration court	Result of court proceedings	No court required - app-based
<b>Penalty for Non-Compliance</b>	10-year bar + 1, 000–5,000 fine if you don't leave on time	N/A - forcibly removed	Must complete process once started

Factor	Voluntary Departure (Court)	Deportation (Removal)	CBP Home App
Best For	Those who can afford costs and want clean record	N/A - this is not a choice	Those who cannot afford travel and have no defenses

## Important Warnings

### ⚠ Before making any decision:

1. **Consult an attorney** - You may have defenses you don't know about
2. **Using CBP Home may affect** your ability to return to the U.S. legally
3. **If you have pending asylum** or other relief applications, self-deporting may abandon those claims
4. **Financial incentives may change** - Verify current offers before deciding
5. **These programs are voluntary** - You cannot be forced to use them

## Who Should Consider Each Option?

### Consider Court Voluntary Departure If:

- You have no viable defense to removal
- You want to preserve future immigration options
- You have family or business matters to settle
- You can afford travel expenses and any required bond
- You plan to apply for a visa in the future

### Consider CBP Home App If:

- You have no viable defense to removal
- You cannot afford travel expenses for court voluntary departure

- You want to leave quickly and avoid detention
- You have no pending applications for relief

### **Fight Deportation If:**

- You have a valid defense (asylum, cancellation, etc.)
  - You qualify for relief from removal
  - Deportation would cause extreme hardship to U.S. citizen family
  - You fear persecution in your home country
  - There are errors in your case that can be challenged
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### **Need Legal Help?**

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**Every case is unique.** Our experienced immigration attorneys can evaluate your situation and help you understand which option is best for you and your family.

#### **Schedule a Consultation:**

- Phone: 1-844-423-3733
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*This information is for educational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Immigration law is complex and constantly changing. Consult with a qualified immigration attorney before making any decisions about your case.*

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