



Types of Hearings in Immigration Court

In general, there are three different types of hearings in immigration court. The first type of hearing is called a **bond hearing**. Bond hearings are separate from a person's immigration case and have to do with whether a person should remain in the detention center while their case is pending. The other two types of hearings, called **master calendar hearings** and **individual calendar hearings**, are part of a person's immigration case. It is during these hearings that decisions will be made about whether a person is allowed to stay in the United States.



Bond Hearings

During a **bond hearing**, a detained person asks the immigration judge to **release them from detention while their immigration case is pending** so that they can fight their case from outside the detention center. A bond is an amount of money that a detained person must pay in order to be released from the detention center. If the immigration judge decides to release a person on bond, they will set a bond amount that can be as low as \$1,500 and will generally be returned to the immigrant if they attend all immigration court hearings.

At a bond hearing, a detained person may present evidence to the court showing that they should be released on bond because they would not be a "**flight risk**" or a "**danger to the community**." In determining whether to release a person on bond, the immigration judge will consider all types of evidence, including whether the person has a residence in the U.S., how long the person has been in the U.S., any family ties in the U.S., employment history, any previous criminal convictions, etc.

A detained person may request a bond hearing **at any time**. Generally, they will only have **one opportunity** to present their case in front of an immigration judge unless their circumstances change. Not all people are eligible to receive a bond. Bond will be unavailable to certain recently arrived asylum applicants as well as people with certain criminal convictions.

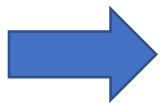


Master Calendar Hearings

The **master calendar hearing** is the **first type of hearing** in a person's immigration case. Master calendar hearings are generally short and consist of only a few questions from the immigration judge. During a master calendar hearing, the immigration judge will ask a person to **plead to** (admit or deny) certain **facts** about them, including their country of citizenship and date of entry to the U.S., as well as the **immigration charges** against them in their case. It is important that you know that by admitting the charges, you are admitting that the government can legally try to deport you. If any of the information is wrong, you can deny the charges, and correct the information with the judge. You also have the ability to deny the charges even if they are true to force the prosecutor to prove them charges against you. If you do this, you have to be prepared to answer questions from the judge or the prosecutor about the charges. If you are a Lawful Permanent Resident (green card holder), or you have other immigration status that the government is trying to take from you, it may be possible that you are not actually deportable, so it is very important that you consult with a lawyer before you admit that the government can deport you, or if you cannot consult with a lawyer, you can deny that you are deportable and make the prosecutor prove that you are.

After this, the judge will ask if they intend to apply for **any forms of immigration relief**. If the person indicates that they wish to apply for relief, they may submit their application at this time or the judge may set another master calendar hearing to give the person more time to complete their application. Once the application has been submitted, the immigration judge will **schedule the case for an individual calendar hearing**. If a person does not wish to apply for immigration relief, they may **request voluntary departure** or be **ordered deported** during their master calendar hearing.

A person may have more than one master calendar hearing. A person may **request a continuance** if they would like more time to speak to an attorney, prepare an application for relief, or otherwise think about how they would like to move forward in their case.



Individual Calendar Hearings

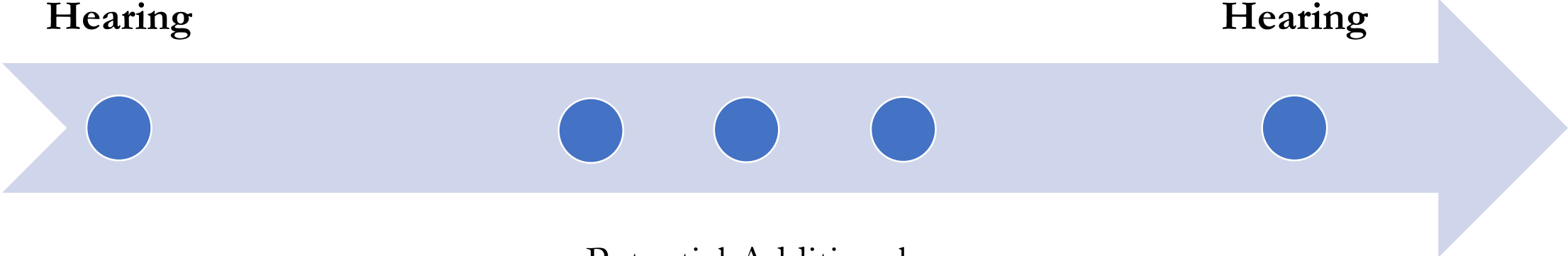
The **individual calendar hearing** is the **second type of hearing** in a person's immigration case. After submitting an application for immigration relief, a person will have the opportunity during their individual calendar hearing to **testify, examine witnesses, and present evidence and legal arguments** explaining why the judge should grant their application for relief. Individual calendar hearings are usually long and can last for several hours. An individual calendar hearing is generally the **final hearing** in a person's immigration case, after which the immigration judge will make a decision whether to grant or deny the application for relief.

IMMIGRATION COURT

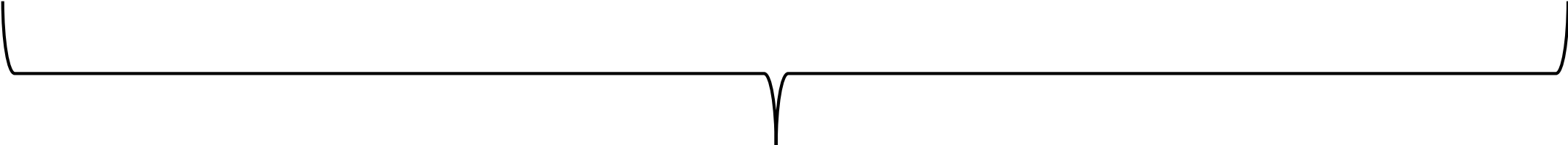
HEARINGS

Master
Calendar
Hearing

Individual
Calendar
Hearing



Potential Additional
**Master Calendar
Hearings**



Bond Hearing:
If you are detained, you can request a bond hearing at any point during this timeline.