

Seeking Asylum: Part 2

Appendix 1

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In December 2019, we separately analyzed a sample of 332 Notice to Appear (NTA) forms from our respondents. The NTA is incredibly consequential for immigration purposes, as it provides information about a person’s immigration court date, time, and location. On the NTA, immigration officials are required to list a person’s physical address. The accuracy of the address that immigration officials list on the NTA cannot be understated. For example, if there is a change in a person’s immigration court date, time, or location, this information is often communicated via mail to the person’s physical address—if an inaccurate address is listed, people may miss their immigration court dates and be ordered removed in absentia (i.e., be given a deportation order).

Among the 332 NTAs we analyzed, just one listed an actual physical address. In other words, just 0.3 percent of the NTAs analyzed listed an actual physical address. Moreover, the address listed was for a temporary migrant shelter. The remaining 99.7 percent of the addresses listed on the NTAs can be summarized into five categories. The first is the city in Mexico where the asylum seeker was returned. This includes, for example, “Domicilio Conocido, Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico,” which means, “Known Address, Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico.” As the population of Tijuana is similar to the population of the City of San Diego, this is equivalent to saying, “Known Address, San Diego, California, United States of America.” The second category is a phone number. Approximately 3.3 percent (11 out of 332) of the NTAs we analyzed listed a phone number in the address field. The third category is “care of” or “C/O”. Approximately 1.8 percent (6 out of 332) of the NTAs we analyzed listed “care of” or “C/O”. However, every NTA that listed “care of” or “C/O” listed a person’s name, but no physical address. The fourth category is nothing, meaning no address at all was listed on the NTA. This represents 0.9 percent (3 out of 332) of the NTAs we analyzed. The fifth category is “Facebook”, which represents 0.3 percent. Table 1 below provides a summary.

NTA Address	#	%
City or Region Only	310	93.4
Phone Number	11	3.3
“C/O”	6	1.8
Blank	3	0.9
Physical Address	1	0.3
Facebook	1	0.3
Total	332	100



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