



## **USCIS – Torch API Program**



### **FIRST – FOIA** **Knowledge Base Article**

**v1.1**

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**Product Owner: Christina Anderson**

**Technical Lead: Jeff Senkevich**

## FIRST Description

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Immigration Records System (FIRST)- FIRST is USCIS's end-to-end digital FOIA submission, processing, and delivery system. It allows for electronic submission of FOIA and Privacy Act requests. Users will also be able to access and retrieve their documents via an authenticated site (<https://first.uscis.gov>), reducing the amount of paper filings.

As part of the Torch API Program, FIRST will be offering external APIs to send digital (JSON) payloads with the required data (information). We plan to work with our external customers to create a seamless integration, for creating and tracking all FOIA requests. This integration will reduce paper footprint, lower processing times, and help improve data quality.

## FIRST API Products

### FOIA Case Create:

This API allows consumers to send a **JSON** Payload with the required data. Once the payload is **validated** and **successfully** ingested, a **Request Number** will be returned to track the **status** of the newly created case.

The consumers are expected to **POST** a JSON payload with the **required** data. This endpoint requires **OAuth 2.0 access token** to consume. (Instructions below)

**Please Note** as part of validation, USCIS expects certain values for the JSON schema. All information pertaining to that will be part of the API Specification on the Developer Portal (<https://developer.uscis.gov/apis/>).

### Sample Payload:

<https://github.com/USCIS/torch/samples/first/case-create.json>

### FOIA Case Status:

This API allows consumers to send a **Control or Request Number** and get the current **Status** of the request. If the Control Number is not valid, the API should respond with the corresponding **error**.

The consumer needs to send a **GET** request, along with the request or control number as a query parameter. This endpoint requires **OAuth 2.0 access token** to consume. (Instructions below)

### Sample Payload:

```
curl --request GET \  
  --url 'https://api-int.uscis.gov/first-case-sbox/case-status?requestNumber=<control_request_# >' \  
  --header 'Authorization: Bearer <access_token>'
```

**Please Note:** It will take at least **5 mins** from Case **Create**, before any **status** to appear from this endpoint.

### FIRST – FOIA :

This API Product is a **combination** of both Case **Create** + Case **Status** API. This allows us to group both APIs under 1 **authentication** protocol. To allow USCIS to give multiple external software's **different types of access**, we have created multiple categories to **limit** access or give **full access** based on Business **approval**.

## FIRST API Products - Environments

### SandBox Environment:

- FOIA Case Create
  - <https://api-int.uscis.gov/first-case-sbox/case>
- FOIA Case Status
  - <https://api-int.uscis.gov/first-case-sbox/case-status>

### Production Environment:

- FOIA Case Create
  - <https://api.uscis.gov/first-case/case>
- FOIA Case Status
  - <https://api.uscis.gov/first-case/case-status>

## FIRST API Products - Troubleshooting

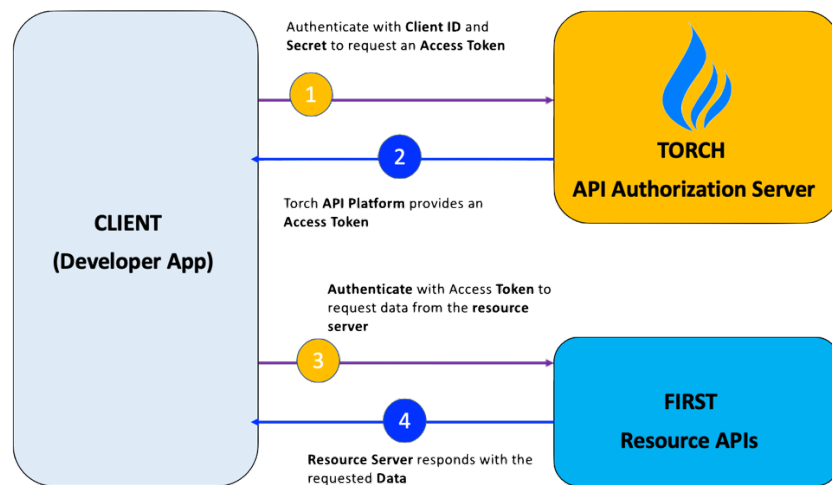
As part of the API design, the FIRST team is building in Error Handling which should tell the consumer any specific error details related to the API call and any discrepancies with the JSON payload values.

### Possible Errors/Issues:

- Software is sending a **bad request**
- Torch API **Platform is down** or impacted
- Backend FIRST **Resource Server is down**

# FIRST API Products – AuthN + AuthZ

All FIRST API products are **secured** using **OAuth 2.0** client credentials.



As part of the Developer Sign up, each Developer must create a **Developer App** to get their OAuth 2.0 **credentials**. Once developers create the **App**, they should see **FIRST API Products** on the list of available API Products. Once they select the FIRST API Product, the request is submitted and sent to FIRST API team for **Approval**. Once the Product says **Enabled** next to it, developers should be able to use the credentials.

App name \*

Callback URL

External site to which a consumer of this app is redirected to log in when using three-legged OAuth.

Description

API Products

☐ USCIS CASE STATUS

☐ FIRST - FOIA

external-software-vendor Approved

Credentials Edit Delete Analytics

Details

Created

15 seconds ago

Last updated

15 seconds ago

Credentials Add key

Consumer Key

.....

👁

🔑

Consumer Secret

.....

👁

🔑

Issued

15 seconds ago

Expires

Never

Key Status

Approved

Products

case-status-api Product Enabled

## **Torch API Platform – Access Token URLs**

### **SandBox Environment:**

- <https://api-int.uscis.gov/oauth/accesstoken>

### **Production Environment:**

- <https://api.uscis.gov/oauth/accesstoken>

## **FIRST API Products - POCs**

### **Product Owner:**

Christina Anderson

### **ITPM:**

Bhavesh Patel

### **Technical Lead:**

Jeffrey Senkevich

## **Developer Support**

**Email:** [developersupport@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:developersupport@uscis.dhs.gov)