



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

T & U Visas and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)



Immigration Relief for Victims of
Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence,
and Other Serious Crimes

DISCLAIMER







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Materials presented today are for informational purposes only and are not legal advice. The information disseminated today and statements made by USCIS personnel are intended solely for the purpose of providing public outreach to the Agency's stakeholders about issues of mutual interest. It is not intended to, does not, and may not be relied upon to create any right or benefit.

OVERVIEW



U.S. Citizenship
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-  T NONIMMIGRANT STATUS (T VISA)
-  U NONIMMIGRANT STATUS (U VISA)
-  VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)
-  DISCUSSION PERIOD

THE INTENT OF T AND U VISAS



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- ✦ Provides temporary status to certain victims of human trafficking and other qualifying crimes
- ✦ Strengthens law enforcement's ability to investigate and prosecute human trafficking and other crimes
- ✦ Encourages trafficked, exploited, and abused victims to report crimes, even if they don't have lawful immigration status



THE T VISA



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Services

-  [Form I-914, Application for T Nonimmigrant Status](#)
-  Grants temporary status up to 4 years (with possibility for green card)
-  Allows temporary status for certain family members
-  Provides a work permit
-  Annual cap of 5,000

A scan of the Form I-914, Application for T Nonimmigrant Status. The form is titled "Department of Homeland Security" and "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services". It includes sections for "PART I - Applicant Information", "PART II - Applicant Information (Spouse and Dependents)", and "PART III - Additional Information". The form contains various fields for personal information, contact details, and application status, along with checkboxes for specific conditions and a signature line at the bottom.

BASIC T VISA REQUIREMENTS



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- 🔥 Victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons
- 🔥 Victim is physically present in U.S. on account of the trafficking
- 🔥 Victim must comply with reasonable requests to help investigate or prosecute the traffickers (some exceptions apply)
- 🔥 Victim must show that removal from U.S. would cause extreme hardship



FORM I-914 SUPPLEMENT B, LAW ENFORCEMENT DECLARATION



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- 🔥 This declaration is **optional for T visa cases**. Victim may still be eligible if Supplement B is not included.
- 🔥 Supplement B should be completed entirely by law enforcement agency.
- 🔥 Victim sends Form I-914 and Supplement B together in one envelope to USCIS.
- 🔥 Law enforcement is **not required** to complete a Supplement B.

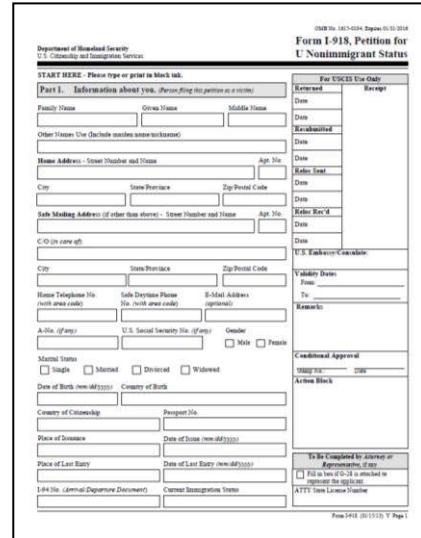


THE U VISA



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-  [Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status](#)
-  Grants temporary status up to 4 years (with possibility for green card)
-  Allows temporary status for certain family members
-  Provides a work permit
-  Annual cap of 10,000



2025 10-1817-0184 (Pages 10/10/2018)
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status

START HERE - Please type or print in black ink.

Part I. Information about you. (Please bring this petition to a consular officer.)

		For USCIS Use Only	
		Entered	Received
Family Name	Given Name	Date	Date
Other Names (Use duplicate copies where applicable)		Residential	Date
Home Address - Street Number and Name		Age	Date
City		State Province	Zip/Postal Code
Safe Mailing Address (if other than above) - Street Number and Name		Age	Date
C-ID (in case of)		Date	Date
City		State Province	Zip/Postal Code
Home Telephone No. (with area code)	Safe Mailing Phone No. (with area code)	S-Email Address (optional)	U.S. Embassy Consulate
A-File (if any)	U.S. Social Security No. (if any)	Gender	Valid thru
Married Status		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	From
<input type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Married <input type="checkbox"/> Divorced <input type="checkbox"/> Widowed			Expires
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	Country of Birth		Knows
Country of Citizenship	Resident No.		Conditional Approval
Place of Entrance	Date of Issue (mm/dd/yyyy)		When Issued
Place of Last Entry	Date of Last Entry (mm/dd/yyyy)		Active Block
I-94 No. (Arrival/Departure Document)	Current Immigration Status		To Be Completed by Attorney or Representative Only
			<input type="checkbox"/> Fill in item of O-21 is attached to support this application
			ATTN: Save License Number

Form I-918 (10/15/18) 7 Page 1

BASIC U VISA REQUIREMENTS



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- 🔥 Victim of qualifying criminal activity
- 🔥 Crime must have occurred in U.S. or violated U.S. law
- 🔥 Victim has credible & reliable information about crime
- 🔥 Victim must have been, is being, or is likely to be helpful to law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying crime
- 🔥 Victim suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of qualifying crime



U VISA QUALIFYING CRIMES



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- ✦ Includes attempt to commit, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation to commit any crime on statutory list
- ✦ Substantially similar crimes may also qualify
- ✦ USCIS decides if a crime listed on the certification is a “qualifying” crime



U VISA STATUTORY LIST OF CRIMES



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- Abduction
- Abusive Sexual Contact
- Blackmail
- Domestic Violence
- Extortion
- False Imprisonment
- Felonious Assault
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Fraud in Foreign Labor Contracting
- Hostage Taking
- Incest
- Involuntary Servitude
- Kidnapping
- Manslaughter
- Murder
- Obstruction of Justice
- Peonage
- Perjury
- Prostitution
- Rape
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Exploitation
- Slave Trade
- Stalking
- Torture
- Trafficking
- Unlawful Criminal Restraint
- Witness Tampering

WHO IS A VICTIM?



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- 🔥 Generally, it is the individual acted upon during the crime
- 🔥 Includes certain family members when the crime is murder/manslaughter, or when the direct victim is incapacitated or incompetent



U VISA “POSSESSES INFORMATION”



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- 🔥 Victim must have information about the crime that law enforcement considers useful to the detection, investigation, or prosecution of the crime
- 🔥 If victim is under 16, incompetent, or incapacitated, then a parent, guardian, or “next friend” may “possess” the information



U VISA “HELPFULNESS”



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- 🔥 Victim has been, is being, or is likely to be helpful to law enforcement
- 🔥 Victim has not refused reasonable requests for information and assistance
- 🔥 “Helpfulness” by victim is an ongoing requirement
- 🔥 If victim is under 16, incompetent, or incapacitated, then a parent, guardian, or “next friend” may be the “helpful” party



FORM I-918 SUPPLEMENT B, LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATION



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- 🔥 This form is **MANDATORY** for **U visa cases**. Victim is **NOT** eligible without a signed Supplement B.
- 🔥 Supplement B should be completed entirely by law enforcement agency.
- 🔥 Victim sends Form I-918 and Supplement B together in one envelope to USCIS.
- 🔥 Law enforcement signs at their discretion. Law enforcement is **not required** to sign.



FORM I-918 SUPPLEMENT B, LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATION



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- ✚ Gives USCIS basic information about the claimed criminal activity
- ✚ Does **not** grant any benefit
- ✚ The certification is not conclusive evidence.
- ✚ The victim should generally submit more evidence to support the case.



FORM I-918 SUPPLEMENT B, LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATION



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What kind of agencies can sign?

- ✿ Any Federal, State, or local law enforcement office or agency that has authority to detect, investigate, prosecute, convict, or sentence qualifying criminal activity.
- ✿ Includes agencies with criminal investigative jurisdiction such as child and adult protective services, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Department of Labor.



FORM I-918 SUPPLEMENT B, LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATION



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Who in the agency can sign?

- 🔥 The head of the certifying agency
- 🔥 Any person in a supervisory role who the head of the certifying agency has designated to issue law enforcement certifications
- 🔥 A Federal, State or local judge



HOW DOES VICTIM PROVE ELIGIBILITY?



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- 🔥 Victim provides evidence of the criminal activity including...
- Form I-918B certification (required)
 - Victim's personal statement
 - Police reports
 - Other evidence such as court transcripts, medical reports, affidavits, news reports, etc.

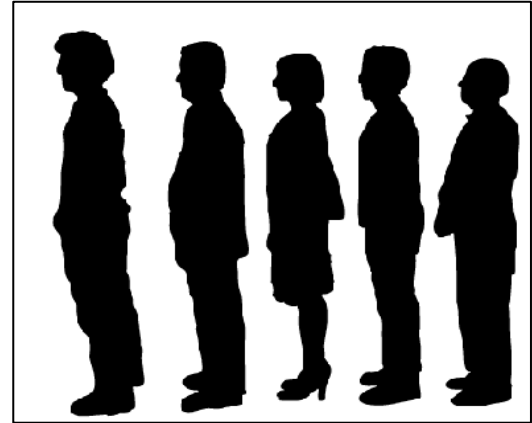
The image shows two documents. The top document is Form I-918B Supplement B, titled "U Nonimmigrant Status Certification". It includes sections for "Part 1. Victim Information", "Part 2. Agency", and "Part 3. Criminal". The bottom document is a "POLICE REPORT" with a "Detail of Event" section and a "Summary" section. A stethoscope is placed over a "Medical Bill" and "MEDICAL PRESCRIPTION" document in the foreground.

U VISA WAITING LIST



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- After 10,000 approvals are issued in a fiscal year, we cannot approve more until the next fiscal year (Oct 1).
- All eligible cases that cannot be granted **solely because of the cap** are put on a waiting list.
- VSC sends written notification and may grant Deferred Action if petitioner/derivatives are in the U.S.
- When next fiscal year begins, if petitioner and derivatives are still eligible, cases are processed on a “first in, first out” basis.



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)



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- 🔥 Provides immigration relief to victims of domestic violence
- 🔥 Victim does not need abuser's cooperation to submit paperwork.
- 🔥 Victim can submit his/her own petition without abuser's knowledge



BENEFITS OF VAWA



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- 🔥 Victim can self-petition, they do not need a sponsor
- 🔥 After self-petition is approved, the victim may:
 - Receive deferred action
 - Get a work permit
- 🔥 Immediate relatives can submit Form I-485 (green card application) with Form I-360
 - Immediate relatives are the spouse, child, and parent of a U.S. citizen
 - Relatives who fall into a preference category can submit Form I-485 when a visa becomes available



WHO CAN FILE A VAWA SELF-PETITION?



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- 🔥 **Spouse**—The abused spouse of a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (child may be included as a derivative beneficiary)
- 🔥 **Child**—The abused child(ren) of a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- 🔥 **Parent** – The abused parent(s) of a U.S. citizen

- 🔥 VAWA immigration relief applies equally to women and men



BASIC VAWA REQUIREMENTS



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- Has or had a qualifying relationship to the abuser
- Subjected to battery or extreme cruelty by the abuser
- Resides or resided with the abuser
- Good moral character
- The abuser must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident



BASIC VAWA REQUIREMENTS



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Special requirements for abused spouses:

- Is or was married to U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Marriage was in good faith



If the VAWA self-petitioner **REMARRIES** after the VAWA petition is approved, that is not grounds to revoke the approved petition

HOW TO APPLY?



- Complete Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant
- Mail form and supporting evidence to Vermont Service Center
- There is no fee for Form I-360 VAWA petitions

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

FORM I-360 (04-01-2016) Revise 02-21-2016
I-360, Petition for Amerasian,
Widow(er), or Special Immigrant

START HERE - Type or print in block ink

Part 1. Information About Person or Organization Filing This Petition. (Individuals use the top section lines; organizations use the second line.) If you are a self-petitioning spouse or child and do not want USCIS to send notices about this petition to your home, you may show an alternate mailing address here. If you are filing for yourself and do not want to use an alternate mailing address, skip to Part 2.

1a. Family Name	1b. Given Name	1c. Middle Name
2. Company or Organization Name		
3. Address - CO		
4. Street Number and Name		
5. City		6. State or Province
7. Country		8. Zip/Postal Code
9. U.S. Social Security Number	10. A-Number	11. DHS File No. (if any)

Part 2. Classification Requested (Check one):

a. Amerasian
 b. Widow(er) of a U.S. citizen
 c. Special Immigrant Female
 d. Special Immigrant Religious Worker
Will the alien be working as a minister? Yes No
 e. Special Immigrant based on employment with the Panama Canal Company, Canal Zone Government, or U.S. Government in the Canal Zone
 f. Special Immigrant Physician
 g. Special Immigrant International Organization Employee or family member
 h. Special Immigrant Armed Forces Member
 i. Self-Petitioning Spouse of Alien U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident
 j. Self-Petitioning Child of Alien U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident
 k. Special Immigrant Afghan or Iraqi National who worked with the U.S. Armed Forces as a translator
 l. Special Immigrant Law National who was employed by or on behalf of the U.S. Government
 m. Other, explain: _____

For USCIS Use Only

Entered	Receipt
Administrative	Administrative
Entry Seal	
Return Receipt	
<input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner Applicant <input type="checkbox"/> Laborers and Secretary Distribution <input type="checkbox"/> Self-Petitioning Spouse <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse of Lawful Permanent Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Class X-1 Visa Renewal	
Classification	
Comments	
Priority Date	
Remarks	
Arms Block	
To Be Completed By	
Signature of Representative, if any	
Fill in box of Form I-360 in red and request the applicant	
VOEAG Number	
ATTY State Case Number	

Form I-360 (04-01-16) 3

THE VICTIM'S ADDRESS



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- Victims may use a “safe address” on their petition
- “Safe address” can be the address of an attorney, preparer, shelter, or other safe place
- USCIS will use this safe address as the mailing address for all correspondence
- Congress created special protections for people with pending or approved VAWA, T, or U self-petitions.



HOW TO CONTACT US



U.S. Citizenship
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USCIS Vermont Service Center

Attn: Crime Victims Unit
75 Lower Welden Street
St. Albans, VT 05479

E-mail for Attorneys or Representatives:

HotlineFollowUpI918I914.vsc@uscis.dhs.gov

HotlineFollowUpI360.vsc@uscis.dhs.gov

Hotline for Attorneys or Representatives:

802-527-4888

USCIS Public Engagement Division

T_U_VAWATraining@uscis.dhs.gov

DHS Blue Campaign

www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign

E-mail: BlueCampaign@dhs.gov

USCIS website

www.uscis.gov/humanitarian

www.uscis.gov/I-914 (T visa form)

www.uscis.gov/I-918 (U visa form)