

What are the required forms to obtain a U visa?

- ◆ Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status. There is no fee for filing this form.
- ◆ If any inadmissibility issues are present, you must file a Form I-192, Application for Advance Permission to Enter as Nonimmigrant, to request a waiver of the inadmissibility. There is a fee associated with this form, however a fee waiver can also be requested.
- ◆ A personal statement describing the criminal activity of which you were a victim.
- ◆ The Form I-918, Supplement B, U Nonimmigrant Status Certification, which must be signed by an authorized official of the certifying law enforcement agency and the official must confirm that you were helpful, are currently being helpful, or will likely be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the case.
- ◆ Each law enforcement agency in Connecticut shall designate at least one officer with supervisory duties to expeditiously process a certification of helpfulness on form I-918, supplement B, or any subsequent certification required by the victim, upon request.

For more information,

**US Department of
Homeland Security**
www.uscis.gov

Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.
New Britain: (860)- 225-8678
Stamford: (203)- 348-9216

Greater Hartford Legal Aid
(860)- 541-5000

New Haven Legal Assistance Assn.
(203)- 946-4811

iiconn - Language Services Dept.
www.iiconn.org

Your local police department



Office of the Victim Advocate
505 Hudson Street, 5th Floor
Hartford, CT, 06106
860-550-6632
Toll Free 1-888-771-3126
Fax: 860-560-7065
www.ct.gov/ova

U Visas For Victims of Crime

U



OVA 
Office of the **Victim
Advocate**

What is a U visa?

- ◆ Created with the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (including the Battered Immigrant Women's Protection Act) in October 2000, the U visa was established for immigrant victims of crime.
- ◆ The U visa is set aside for victims of qualifying crimes who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse and are helpful to law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of criminal activity.
- ◆ A U visa usually lasts 4 years unless extended by the court for good cause.
- ◆ This status comes with permission to legally work in the US and that while it is a temporary status, recipients can apply for permanent residence after 3 years.

Can family members of a U visa holder be protected?

YES!

- ◆ If you are under 21, you may petition on behalf of your spouse, children, parents and unmarried siblings under age 18.
- ◆ If you are above 21, you may petition on behalf of your spouse and children.
- ◆ To petition for a family member, you must file a form I-918, supplement A, petition for a qualifying family member of a U-1 recipient.

What are some qualifying crimes?

- ◆ Rape
- ◆ Torture
- ◆ Trafficking
- ◆ Incest
- ◆ Domestic violence
- ◆ Sexual assault or abuse
- ◆ Prostitution
- ◆ Sexual exploitation
- ◆ Stalking
- ◆ Female genital mutilation
- ◆ Being held hostage
- ◆ Peonage
- ◆ Involuntary servitude
- ◆ Slave trade
- ◆ Kidnapping
- ◆ Abduction
- ◆ Unlawful criminal restraint
- ◆ False imprisonment
- ◆ Blackmail
- ◆ Extortion
- ◆ Manslaughter
- ◆ Murder
- ◆ Felonious assault
- ◆ Witness tampering
- ◆ Obstruction of justice
- ◆ Perjury
- ◆ Fraud in foreign labor contracting
- ◆ Other related crimes
- ◆ Or attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of the above mentioned crimes

** Please note: this is not an exhaustive list of qualifying crimes*

How does a victim qualify for a U visa?

The victim may be eligible for a u non-immigrant visa if he or she:

- ◆ 1. Is a victim of a qualifying crime.
- ◆ 2. Has suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of that crime.
- ◆ 3. Possesses information concerning the crime. If the victim is under the age of 16, or unable to provide information due to a disability, a parent, guardian or next friend may possess the information about the crime on the victim's behalf. A "next friend" is a person who appears in a lawsuit to act for the benefit of an alien who is under 16, incompetent or incapacitated.
- ◆ 4. Is, has been, or is likely to be helpful to the investigation or prosecution of the crime.
- ◆ 5. The crime occurred in the US or violates US law.

** Note that meeting these criteria does not guarantee you a U visa. The USCIS makes the final decision.*

