



Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS):

A Path to Lawful Permanent Residence for Immigrant Children

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

Is available only to unmarried, noncitizen children (under 21) who currently reside in the U.S. and have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents.

Step One: Obtain the Predicate Order from State Court

File Motion for Special Findings in Colorado state court that has jurisdiction “to make judicial determinations about the care and custody of juveniles” 8 C.F.R. § 204.11(a).



Juvenile Court/Dependency and Neglect/Delinquency/Adoption
(up to age 21)

Probate/Guardianship
(up to age 18)

Allocation of Parental Responsibilities (APR)
(up to age 18)

Special Findings Necessary to Apply for SIJS

- The child is under 21 and unmarried;
- Reunification with **one or both** parents is not viable **due to** abuse, neglect, abandonment, or similar basis under state law;
- The child is dependent upon the juvenile court or has been legally committed to, or placed under the custody of, an agency or department of a State, or an individual or entity appointed by a State or juvenile court;
- It is not in the best interest of the child to return to his or her country of last habitual residence; and
- The child will remain under the jurisdiction of the court until the child ages out, unless or until required by law or in the best interests of the child.



Step Two: Petition for Immigration Status

With the Predicate Order from the State “Juvenile” Court, the Child is Able to Submit a Petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and Lawful Permanent Residency with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).