



# Have you been the victim of a crime?

## You may qualify for a U Visa



### Purpose

- The U Visa provides protection to immigrants who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of having been the victim of a crime and who assist authorities in investigating or prosecuting the crime.

### Benefits of the U Visa

- Approved U Visa applicants are allowed to remain in the U.S. and later apply for legal permanent residency in the U.S. They may also receive work authorization and certain family members may be included on the U Visa application.

### Do I qualify?

- **You may be eligible for a U Visa if you meet the following requirements:**
  1. You are the victim of a crime (the list of crimes includes: rape, torture, trafficking, incest, domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual contact, prostitution, false imprisonment, kidnapping, blackmail, extortion, manslaughter, assault, and others).
  2. You suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of the crime.
  3. You have been, or are willing to be, helpful to law enforcement authorities in investigating and or prosecuting the crime.
  4. The crime violated the laws of the U.S. or occurred in the U.S.

Note: If YOU have been convicted of a crime, especially an aggravated felony, it may be difficult or impossible to get a U Visa, even if you meet the other requirements. If this is your situation, talk to an immigration attorney.

### What Should I Do Next?

- **If you meet the above requirements for a U Visa, you should consider taking the following steps.**
  1. Gather information to help prove your case.
    - Evidence that you are the victim of crime such as:
      - i. protection orders, police records, criminal court records;
      - ii. medical records, school records, photographs of injuries;
      - iii. a written statement from you telling your story;
      - iv. a written statement from any relatives, friends, shelter workers, counselors, social workers, or clergy, who may know your situation.
  2. Speak with an immigration attorney about filing for a U Visa or prepare to file your request on your own (Form I-918)
    - A law enforcement official must certify that you have been, or are likely to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crime (Form I-918B)

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Last Updated: 3/19/2010