

U and T Visa Certifications & Declarations

U and T Visa Certifications

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 created two types of visas available for certain victims of crimes:

- ***U nonimmigrant visas*** provide legal status to victims of an enumerated list of “qualifying criminal activities” who have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse, and possess information concerning that crime, and who have been, are being, or are likely to be helpful to law enforcement or government officials.
- ***T nonimmigrant visas*** provide legal status to certain victims of human trafficking who assist law enforcement authorities in the investigation or prosecution of trafficking crimes.

As a local law enforcement agency, we play an important role in the application process for U nonimmigrant status (also known as a U visa) for victims of certain crimes and T nonimmigrant status (also known as a T visa) for victims of human trafficking. Lack of legal immigration status in the United States may be among the reasons for some victims choosing not to come forward to work with law enforcement. Perpetrators and human traffickers also use victims’ lack of legal status as leverage to exploit and control them. By stabilizing their status in the United States, immigration relief can be critical to providing victims of crime a greater sense of security that also makes it easier for them to assist us with our law enforcement and prosecutorial efforts.

In order to qualify for the U and T visa, the victim must prove to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that he or she cooperated with law enforcement. USCIS is the federal component of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) responsible for adjudicating (approving or denying) U and T visa applications. One of the primary ways that a victim may demonstrate cooperation is by submitting a signed statement from law enforcement as part of the application. In the U visa context, this statement is a required part of the petition and is known as USCIS Form I-918, Supplement B, U Nonimmigrant Status Certification (Form I-918B or certification). In the T visa context, this statement is known as USCIS Form I-914, Supplement B, Declaration of Law Enforcement Officer for Victim in Trafficking of Persons (Form I-914B or declaration). Both applications are provided below:

[USCIS Form I-918](#)

[USCIS Form I-914](#)