



Questions and Answers

May 5, 2009

Inquiry Process for T, U and VAWA Applicants

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Q. How do I inquire about the status of a VAWA self-petition, or T or U visa petition?

A. The Vermont Service Center (VSC) has established a hotline (1-802-527-4888) that may be used to inquire about pending cases. The hotline is not intended to field routine status checks or requests for general information regarding processing times. Only inquiries related to RFEs or unusual case issues should be channeled through the hotline. The VSC has also made available to advocacy groups and attorneys the email address of the VAWA Unit Assistant Center Director, Thomas.Pearl@dhs.gov, which should only be used **after prior attempts to secure information and/or action via the VAWA Hotline do not address the caller's concerns.**

Q. How do I request expedited processing for a case?

A. Customers should call the VSC hotline. Presently, the VSC will expedite cases where the applicant is detained at government expense. It is clear that many VAWA, T, and U visa cases involve compelling humanitarian issues. Thus, established USCIS expedite criteria regarding humanitarian issues may be invoked as well but be aware any request for expeditious processing on humanitarian grounds must involve extraordinary circumstances. The VAWA unit will entertain and answer every request it receives based on a full review of the unique facts presented.

Q. I received a document entitled, "Request for Supplemental Information." What is this?

A. In an effort to expedite the processing and adjudication of Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status (Form I-918), the VSC has identified those Form I-918s not accompanied by an Application for Advance Permission to Enter as a Nonimmigrant Pursuant to Section 212(d)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Form I-192). This notice or Request for Supplemental Information seeks submission of a Form I-192 prior to the actual adjudication of the U petition. Our primary goal in sending such a notice is to minimize case processing times since receipt of the Form I-192 prior to the actual adjudication may eliminate the need to issue an RFE.

If you receive this request, please respond as soon as possible and do not submit evidence that was previously submitted with your Form I-918, or your request for interim relief.

If deficiencies are discovered at the time of adjudicative review, USCIS will issue another request for evidence.

Failure to respond to this notice will **not** result in the automatic denial of your petition. However, it may delay the final adjudication of your case.