

# The National Center for Victims of Crime,

## The U Visa: A Tool to Support Victims, Communities, and Increase Participation in the Criminal Justice System

Atlanta, Georgia

October 8, 2021

**NIWAP**

National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project at the  
American University Washington College of Law and  
AEquitas





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# The National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project Brochure

## MISSION

NIWAP amplifies the voices of immigrant survivors of abuse and their advocates and builds the capacity of professionals to eliminate the systemic barriers faced by survivors.



At NIWAP, we envision a world with equitable access to justice for immigrant abuse survivors and their children to heal and thrive.

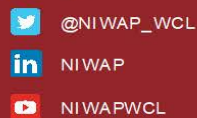
## NIWAP BY THE NUMBERS

- 8,500+ personalized answers to technical assistance calls
- 5,500+ legal professionals helped
- 440 training events conducted
- 29,780 people trained by NIWAP
- 11,000+ subscribers to our newsletter
- 665 publications created
- 615,000+ downloads of NIWAP materials from our free web library

\*\*Data reported from January 2012-April 2019

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# NIWAP

The National  
Immigrant Women's  
Advocacy Project

American University  
Washington College of Law

# NIWAP

National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project at the  
American University Washington College of Law



# Who We Are

- The National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) at American University Washington College of Law
- Provide technical assistance and advocacy organization that promotes the implementation and use of:
  - laws, policies, and practices to improve legal rights, services, and assistance for immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking, child abuse and other crimes.



# What We Do

- Training: Capacity building to make laws effective
  - Legally accurate resource materials
  - Technical assistance
- Research: Transformation through Documentation
  - Legal and Social Science
  - Web library
  - Publications
- Policy: Amplifying voices through advocacy



**INNOVATIVE**  
Sustaining effective  
practices and promoting  
systemic change

**INFORMED**  
Training, resources, and  
assistance supported by  
research and experience

**PRACTICAL**  
Customized strategies that  
are accessible, responsive,  
and easy to apply

# What We Do



## Resources

Create, research, and curate publications, statutory and case law compilations, and other resources that strengthen prosecution practices



## Consultations

Offer on-demand 24/7 consultations with our seasoned prosecutors to answer case-specific inquiries, discuss strategy, conduct research, and recommend data-driven solutions



## Training Events

Develop curricula and facilitate a wide range of specialized in-person and web-based trainings designed to empower prosecutors and allied professionals



## Partnerships & Initiatives

Provide long-term support in building frameworks for coordinated responses to gender-based violence including data collection and analysis, task force development, and training



# Examples of Resources

[www.aequitasresource.org/resources](http://www.aequitasresource.org/resources)

- Panel discussion, "Confronting Racial Bias & Implementing Strategies to Ensure Justice in the Prosecution of Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Human Trafficking"
- Just Exists Initiative
  - Webinar, "Being Trafficked: What You Need to Know About 'the Life'"
  - Webinar, "Assessing Culpability: Context Before Conviction"
  - Pilot Site Application Process
- Webinar, "Expanding Our Reach: Prosecuting Intimate Partner Violence Against Victims Who Identify As LGBTQ+"
- Webinar, "Responding to Ethical Considerations in Sexual Violence Cases"

# Learning Objectives

*By the end of this workshop, you will better be able to:*

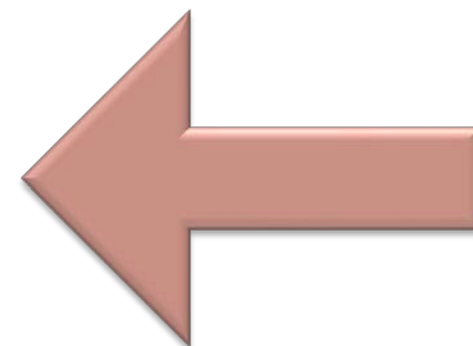
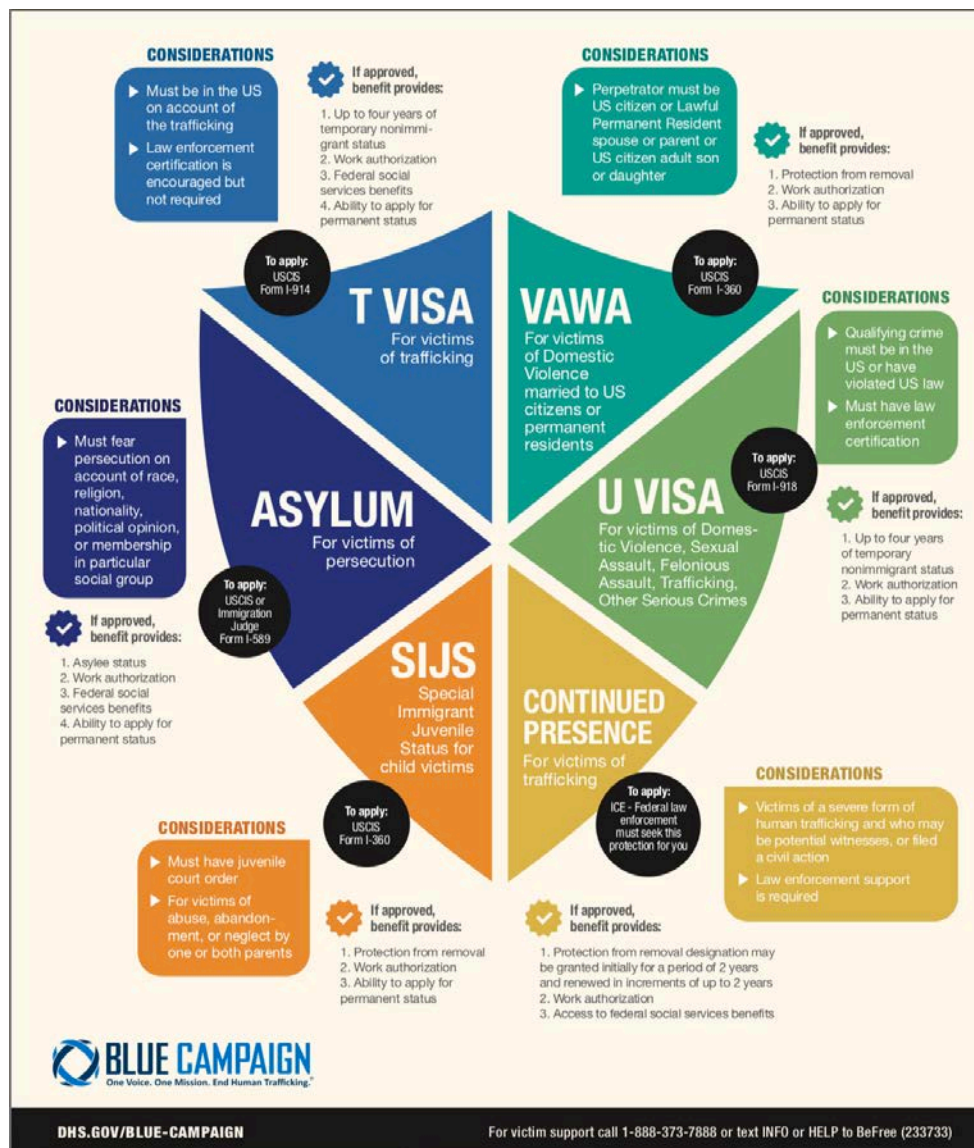
- Identify victims who may qualify for the U Visa
- Understand how the U visa strengthens law enforcement ability to detect, investigate and prosecute crime
- Enhance victim participation in investigations and prosecutions


# General Caveats

- Women, men, and children can qualify for U Visas
- Victims/Survivors of almost all violent crimes, and many other crimes are eligible to apply for U Visas

*That said, many examples in this presentation will refer to female victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault because they make up a large majority of the U Visa applications filed*

# Primary Immigration Protections for Victims





Why is immigration relief available to victims of crime?



# Legislative Intent

- We want crimes reported to police
- Improved community policing helps everyone
- No one should be a victim of crime
- Offenders prey upon the most vulnerable in our communities, often immigrants
- Without victims reporting crimes, we won't know about the most dangerous offenders
  - Domestic violence
  - Sexual Violence
  - Stalking

# Goals of Immigration Relief



# IACP 2018 Resolution

- Recognizes U and T Visas as significant crime fighting tools and using them as best practice
- Supports training, education, communication and “increased police leadership involvement”
- Committed to increasing collaboration

*U Visas are “effective tools for law enforcement agencies that enhance public safety, officer safety and protection of victims nationwide.”*

# Immigrant Crime Victim Dynamics, & the U Visa

# Immigrants are uniquely affected by domestic and sexual violence because ...

- A. The U.S. Constitution does not protect them
- B. Resources to help victims are only available in English
- C. State laws do not require police to help immigrant crime victims
- D. Offenders prey upon immigrant victims' fears and misconceptions, count on barriers to prevent the reporting of crime, and manipulate the legal system to assert power and control



# Immigration Related Abuse

- Refusal to file immigration papers on spouse/child/parent's behalf
- Threats or taking steps to withdraw an immigration case filed on the survivor's behalf
  - Family or work based visas
- Forcing survivor to work with false documents
- Threats/attempts to have her deported
- Calls to DHS to turn her in – have her case denied

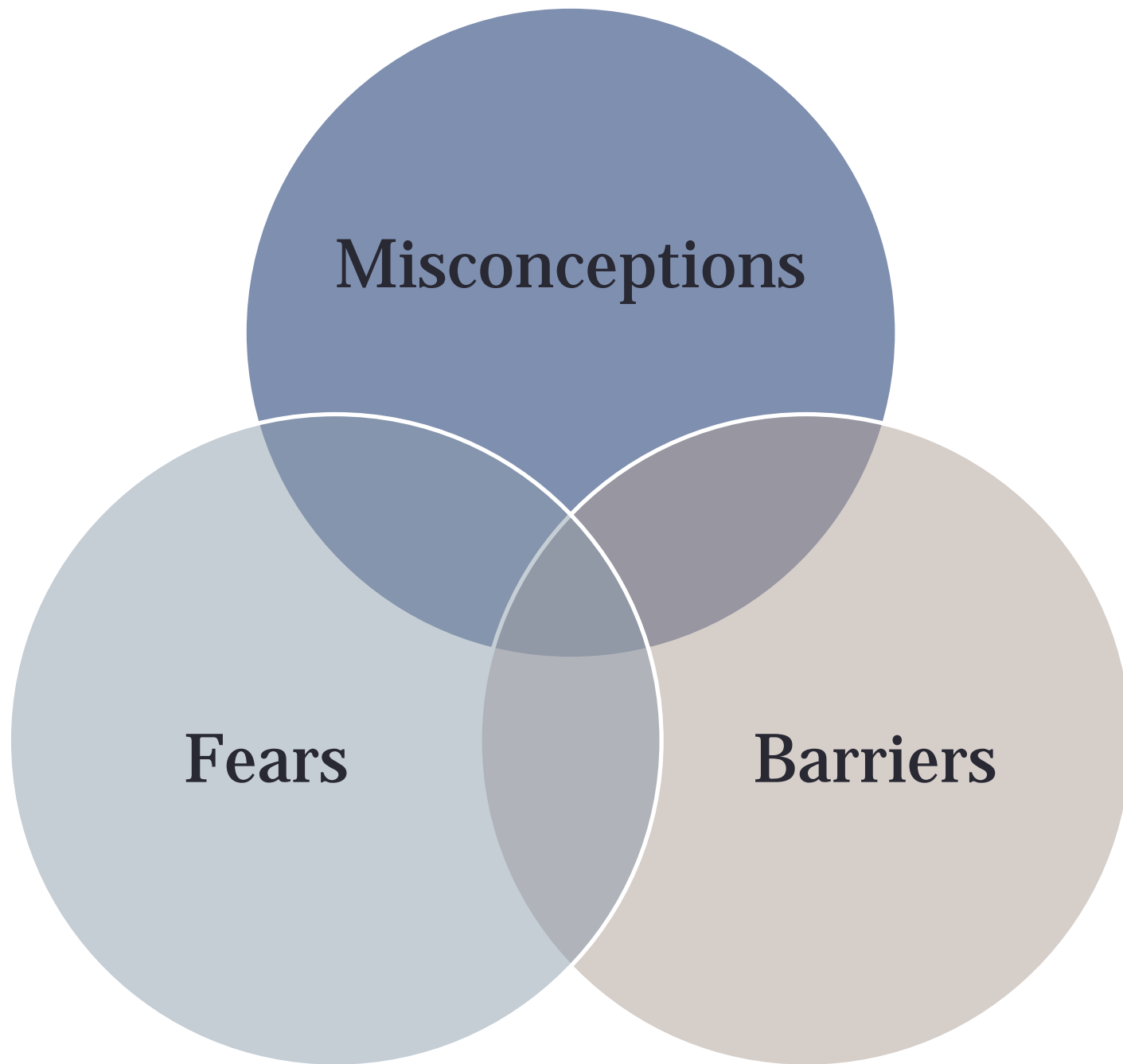
# Screening Tips

- Screen for immigration-related abuse
  - More likely to exist in relationships where physical and sexual abuse exist (v. psychological abuse)
- Identify immigration-related abuse as a potential predictor of escalating abuse

Mary Ann Dutton, Leslye Orloff, and Giselle Hass, Characteristics of Help-Seeking Behaviors, Resources and Service Needs of Battered Immigrant Latinas: Legal and Policy Implications (Summer 2000)

- Document to support claims of physical and sexual abuse

What prevents immigrant victims from reporting crime and/or participating in investigations and prosecutions ?



# Fears

- Deportation
- Circumstances in their home country
- Separation from children
- Lack of contact with family
- Dangers facing their family in their country of origin
- Ostracism from their community
- Retaliation



# Misconceptions

- Lack knowledge of
  - Crime victim legal rights
  - Laws regarding domestic violence, sexual assault
- Do not trust the police
- Believe police will arrest them
- Local police are immigration officers
- No services are available to immigrant victims
- Police are corrupt
- Criminal justice system will do nothing

# Barriers

- Do not speak or understand English
- Financially depend on the perpetrator
- Isolation
- Lack of transportation or child care
- Community pressure
- Family pressure
- Religious factors

Immigration relief

Misconceptions

Language access

Fear

Barriers

# U Visa Basics

- The U Visa grants a temporary 4 year stay
- Only 10,000 U Visas awarded per year
- Application for a U Visa requires a certification from a designated government official
- Certification is one part of the overall application
  - Victim must submit additional documentation and proof in their full application

# U Visa Eligibility

The victim will indicate that they satisfy the three eligibility components in their U visa application (I-918 form).

## **The person is a U visa victim**

- Victim of a qualifying criminal activity
- Victim possesses information about the crime
- Criminal activity occurred in U.S. or violated U.S. law

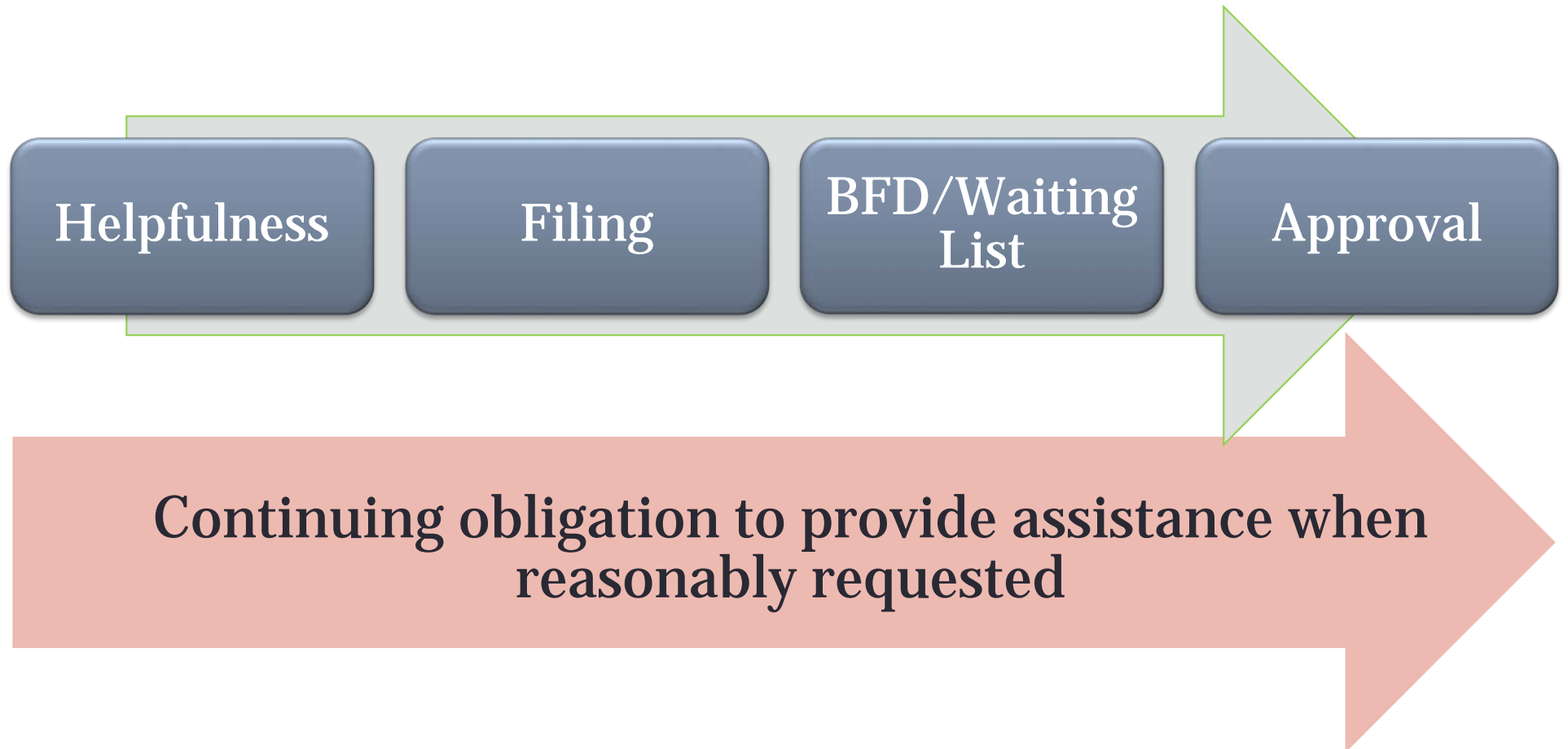
## **Victim is “Helpful”**

- Victim “has been, is being, or is likely to be helpful” in “detection, investigation, prosecution, conviction, or sentencing”

## **Victim suffered harm**

- Substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of the qualifying criminal activity

# Updated U Visa Process



# U Visa Bona Fide Determination Process

- USCIS Implemented Bona Fide Determination (BFD) process on June 14, 2021
- Applies for victims and qualifying family members with pending , bona fide applications
  - “Bona fide” generally means made in good faith, without fraud or deceit
- Under this process, USCIS exercises its discretion on a case by case basis to grant BFD Employment Authorization Documents and deferred action



# Victims “Red Flagged”



- Department of Homeland Security (DHS) computer system “red flags” victims who have filed for, or have been granted victim-based immigration relief
- Reminds DHS staff of legal obligation not to rely on “tips” from perpetrators regarding victims of
  - Domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking
- Immigration case brought against a victim can be dismissed for VAWA confidentiality violation
  - 8 U.S.C. 1367
- Practice tip: Victims should carry a signed certification form with them at all times

# VAWA Confidentiality Prongs

## Abuser-Provided Information:

- DHS, DOJ and the State Department are barred from taking action against a victim based solely upon information provided by abusers and crime perpetrators (and their family members)

## Location Prohibitions:

- Locational prohibitions to enforcement unless there is compliance with specific statutory and policy safeguards

## Non-Disclosure:

- Unless one of the enumerated exceptions apply, DHS, DOJ and the State Department cannot disclose VAWA information to anyone

# Rationale

- 25% of perpetrators actively report the victim for removal
- 36% of perpetrators get immigrant and LEP victims calling for help arrested for domestic violence
- U visa applicants have higher future crime reporting rates

Krisztina E. Szabo, David Stauffer, Benish Anver, *Work Authorization For VAWA Self-Petitioners and U Visa Applicants*, NIWAP (Feb. 12, 2014) and Rafaela Rodrigues, Alina Husain, Amanda Couture-Carron, Leslye E. Orloff and Nawal H. Ammar, *Promoting Access to Justice for Immigrant and Limited English Proficient Victims (2017)*

A closer look at what U Visa Certification attests to:

**THE PERSON IS VICTIM OF A QUALIFYING CRIME**

# Qualifying Criminal Activity

Abduction	Hostage	Sexual Assault
Abusive Sexual Contact	Incest	Sexual Exploitation
Blackmail	Involuntary Servitude	Slave Trade
Domestic Violence	Kidnapping	Stalking
Extortion	Manslaughter	Torture
False Imprisonment	Murder	Trafficking
Felonious Assault	Obstruction of Justice	Witness Tampering
Female Genital Mutilation	Peonage	Unlawful Criminal Restraint
Fraud in Foreign Labor Contracting	Perjury	Prostitution
Rape	Attempt, conspiracy or solicitation to commit crime or similar activity	

# Additional Applicants

- Parents and guardians can apply as an “indirect victim” if:
  - The victim is a child under 21 years of age and/or
  - The victim is incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased due to murder or manslaughter
  - Indirect victims must demonstrate that they were helpful
- Bystander victimization – very limited
- When the victim is a child, the helpfulness requirement can be met by a “next friend” being helpful

# Family Members Can Also Be Protected

<b>If the crime victim/survivor is:</b>	<b>Qualifying Family Member</b>
21 years of age or older at the time of filing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spouse</li><li>• Unmarried children under the age of 21</li></ul>
Under the age of 21 years old at the time of filing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spouse</li><li>• Unmarried children under 21</li><li>• Parent</li><li>• Unmarried siblings under the age of 18</li></ul>

A closer look at what the U Visa certification attests to:

**THE VICTIM IS “HELPFUL”**

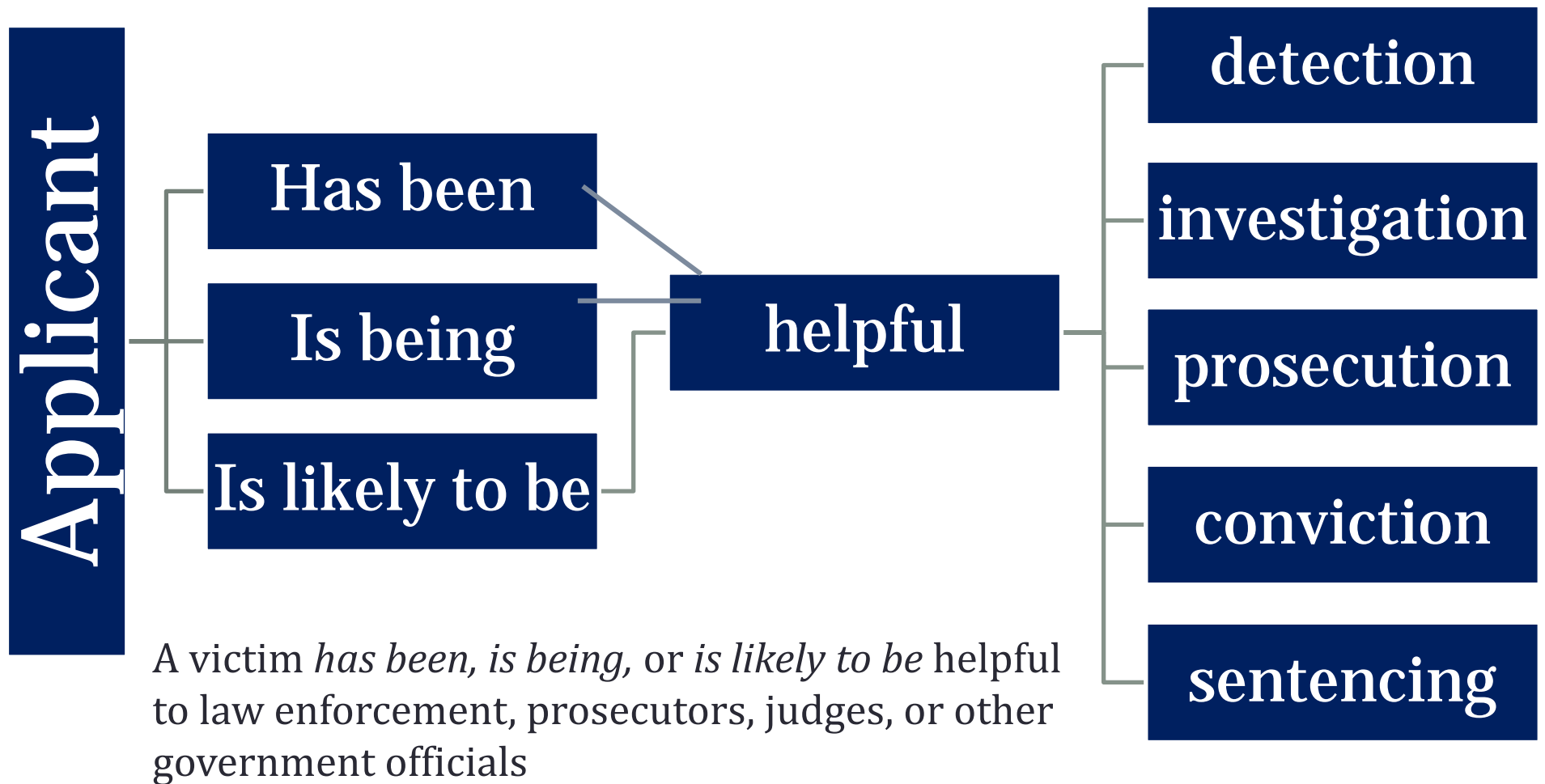


# Determining Helpfulness

- Certifying agency determines “helpfulness”
- No degree of helpfulness required
  - DHS regulations – totality of the circumstances
- Any agency may complete U Visa certification as soon as they assess victim’s helpfulness
- The investigation or prosecution can still be ongoing
- Certification can be “revoked”

# Definition of “Helpfulness”

INA 245(m)(1); 8 U.S.C. 1255(m)(1) and 8 C.F.R 214.14(b)(3)



# The following are **Not Required** in order to certify that a victim has been helpful

- Certification signed within the statute of limitations of the qualifying criminal activity
- Conviction
- Charges filed
- Offender arrested/prosecuted
- Victim provides testimony at trial
- Victim is a necessary witness
- Offender is identified
- Offender alive



Victim-centered approach

# Helpfulness

Calling 911

Having a Rape Kit performed

Providing a description of offender

Allowing photographs to be taken

Giving information about the offender's whereabouts

Bringing a minor victim to a Child Advocacy Center

Providing a statement about "other bad acts"

Reporting crime in another case against the perpetrator

Testifying at a bond hearing, trial, or sentencing

# U Visa Certification Requirements

## Victim

- Qualifying criminal activity
- Possesses information about the crime
- Criminal activity occurred in U.S. or violated U.S. law

## Helpful

- Has been, is being, or is likely to be
- Detection, investigation, prosecution, conviction, or sentencing

## Harm

- Substantial physical or mental abuse as a result

# Who Can Certify?

*“law enforcement” & “law enforcement agencies” =*

- Federal, state, and local
  - Police, sheriffs, FBI, HIS, ATF
  - Prosecutors
  - Head of agency or designee
  - Judges, Magistrates, Commissioners
- Departments of Labor (DOL) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
- Child and Elder Abuse agencies
- Other government agencies with investigative authority

There is **NO** statute of limitations on signing a certification. However, there is a **six month** window after signing the certification in which the U visa application must be filed.

# When should you certify?

- A. Immediately upon receipt of certification
- B. Once your agency has knowledge of a victim's past or present helpfulness or believes a victim is likely to be helpful
- C. When you are certain that the victim will testify at trial
- D. When the defendant is convicted

# Analyzing Requests for Certification

What criminal activity occurred?



Identify the victim or indirect victim



Determine helpfulness



Identify if any family members were implicated in the crime



Note any injuries observed; provide documentation



# U Visa Certification Form Highlights



## Supplement B, U Nonimmigrant Status Certification

Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS  
Form I-918  
OMB No. 1615-0104  
Expires 04/30/2021



Certification form is available to download at  
<https://www.uscis.gov/i-918>

▶ **START HERE - Type or print in black or blue ink.**

## Part 1. Victim Information

1. Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (if any)

▶ A-

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2.a. Family Name  
(Last Name)

2.b. Given Name  
(First Name)

2.c. Middle Name

**Other Names Used** (Include maiden names, nicknames, and aliases, if applicable.)

If you need extra space to provide additional names, use the space provided in **Part 7. Additional Information.**

3.a. Family Name  
(Last Name)

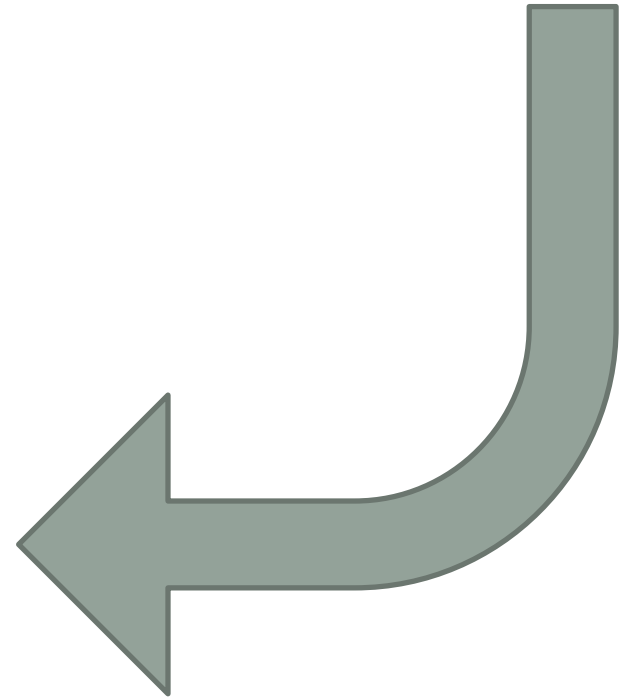
3.b. Given Name  
(First Name)

3.c. Middle Name

4. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

5. Gender  Male  Female

This is sometimes filled out by the victim's immigration attorney or advocate.





In addition to the head of the agency, one or more certifying officials can be designated as a “Certifying Official”

## Part 2. Agency Information

### 1. Name of Certifying Agency

### Name of Certifying Official

#### 2.a. Family Name (Last Name)

#### 2.b. Given Name (First Name)

#### 2.c. Middle Name

### 3. Title and Division/Office of Certifying Official

### Name of Head of Certifying Agency

#### 4.a. Family Name (Last Name)

#### 4.b. Given Name (First Name)

#### 4.c. Middle Name

### Part 3. Criminal Acts

If you need extra space to complete this section, use the space provided in **Part 7. Additional Information.**

1. The petitioner is a victim of criminal activity involving a violation of one of the following Federal, state, or local criminal offenses (or any similar activity). (Select all applicable boxes)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abduction                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Manslaughter                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abusive Sexual Contact                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Murder   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attempt to Commit Any of the Named Crimes    | <input type="checkbox"/> Obstruction of Justice                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being Held Hostage                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Peonage  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackmail                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Perjury  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy to Commit Any of the Named Crimes | <input type="checkbox"/> Prostitution                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Rape   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extortion                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Assault                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> False Imprisonment                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Exploitation                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Felonious Assault                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Slave Trade                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Female Genital Mutilation                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation to Commit Any of the Named Crimes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fraud in Foreign Labor Contracting           | <input type="checkbox"/> Stalking                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Incest                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Torture  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Involuntary Servitude                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Trafficking                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kidnapping                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Unlawful Criminal Restraint                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Witness Tampering                              |

You can & should certify multiple offenses when present in the case, even if not charged

Dates do not have to be precise – you can use months, seasons or years.

Provide the dates on which the criminal activity occurred.

2.a. Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

2.b. Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

2.c. Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

2.d. Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

3. List the statutory citations for the criminal activity being investigated or prosecuted, or that was investigated or prosecuted.

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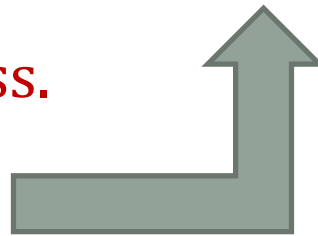
Attaching state statutory language can be helpful.

6. Briefly describe the criminal activity being investigated and/or prosecuted and the involvement of the petitioner named in **Part 1**. Attach copies of all relevant reports and findings.

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Discuss the victim's helpfulness.  
Make copies of all reports and  
photographs and attach.

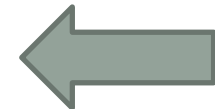


7. Provide a description of any known or documented injury to the victim. Attach copies of all relevant reports and findings.

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Be as specific  
as possible,  
highlighting  
visible  
injuries  
observed and  
if you are  
aware of  
mental injury.



## Part 4. Helpfulness Of The Victim

For the following questions, if the victim is under 16 years of age, incompetent or incapacitated, then a parent, guardian, or next friend may act on behalf of the victim.

1. Does the victim possess information concerning the criminal activity listed in **Part 3.**?  Yes  No
2. Has the victim been helpful, is the victim being helpful, or is the victim likely to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity detailed above?  Yes  No
3. Since the initiation of cooperation, has the victim refused or failed to provide assistance reasonably requested in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity detailed above?  Yes  No

We will  
talk  
about  
this  
next

If you answer "Yes" to **Item Numbers 1. - 3.**, provide an explanation in the space below. If you need extra space to complete this section, use the space provided in **Part 7. Additional Information.**

## Part 5. Family Members Culpable In Criminal Activity

1. Are any of the victim's family members culpable or believed to be culpable in the criminal activity of which the petitioner is a victim?  Yes  No

If you answered "Yes," list the family members and their criminal involvement. (If you need extra space to complete this section, use the space provided in **Part 7. Additional Information.**)

- 2.a. Family Name (Last Name)
- 2.b. Given Name (First Name)
- 2.c. Middle Name
- 2.d. Relationship
- 2.e. Involvement

Because many applications will include domestic violence, this may likely be the defendant.





## Part 6. Certification

I am the head of the agency listed in **Part 2.** or I am the person in the agency who was specifically designated by the head of the agency to issue a U Nonimmigrant Status Certification on behalf of the agency. Based upon investigation of the facts, I certify, under penalty of perjury, that the individual identified in **Part 1.** is or was a victim of one or more of the crimes listed in **Part 3.** I certify that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that I have made and will make no promises regarding the above victim's ability to obtain a visa from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), based upon this certification. I further certify that if the victim unreasonably refuses to assist in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity of which he or she is a victim, I will notify USCIS.

1. Signature of Certifying Official (sign in ink)

➔

2. Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)

3. Daytime Telephone Number

4. Fax Number

*"I further certify that if the victim unreasonably refuses to assist in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity of which he or she is a victim, I will notify USCIS"*

**REMEMBER:** This is merely a certification of the above information and does not confer any immigration relief.

# “Unreasonable Refuse to Assist”

## Part 4:

Since the initiation of cooperation, has the victim refused or failed to provide assistance reasonably requested in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity detailed above?

Yes  No

## Part 6:

I further certify that if the victim unreasonably refuses to assist in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity of which he or she is a victim, I will notify USCIS.

# Roles and Responsibilities



Have You Ever Had a Case Where the Victim  
Became “Uncooperative” At Any Point?



# Analysis

Is the request  
reasonable?

8 C.F.R. 214.14(b)(3)

8 C.F.R. 245.24(2)(2)(ii)

Is the refusal  
unreasonable?

8 C.F.R. 245.24(a)(5)

# Unreasonable Requests

Subjective, but consider if the request:

- Endangers victim, witnesses, family members, or others
- Subjects the victim to greater harm
- Increases trauma to victim
- Negatively affects the victim's ability to support herself or her family
- Is reasonable in light of the perpetrator's force, fraud or coercion of the victim

# Reasonable Refusals

Subjective, but consider if it is reasonable to refuse a request if the victim is:

- In danger
- Unaware of request
- Being intimidated
- Being threatened
- Concerned about the safety of her family
- Under the belief that participating is more dangerous than not

# Evaluating Unreasonableness

DHS regulations require affirmative evidence and consideration of:

- Totality of the circumstances
- The nature of the victimization
- Applicable guidelines for victim/witness assistance
- Victim's fear or the abuser
- Trauma suffered (both mental and physical)
- Force, fraud or coercion
- Age, maturity, capacity of the applicant
  - 8 C.F.R. 245.24(a)(5)



You are in the best position to determine the reasons the victim may refuse to assist?



# Practice Tips

- Proactively address witness intimidation
  - Monitor jail phone calls
  - Conduct wellness checks when appropriate
  - Recognize changes in communication patterns
- Collaborate with victim service professionals
- Communicate with victim's immigration attorney
- Establish safe points of contact with friends and family
- Identify tactics used by offender to assert power and control
- Continually safety plan with victim

*“Only unsuccessful intimidation ever came to the attention of police or prosecutors.”*

Kerry Healey, National Institute of Justice, Research in Action, Victim and Witness Intimidation: New Developments and Emerging Responses (Oct. 1995)  
<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/witintim.pdf>

# If you still believe the victim is unreasonably refusing...

- Note on the certification, sign, and return to victim or victim's attorney
- Burden shifts to victim to prove the refusal is not unreasonable
- DHS provides the victim an opportunity to explain
- DHS makes the ultimate decision

## POLL #8: *When should you certify?*

- A. Immediately upon receipt of certification
- B. Once your agency has knowledge of a victim's past or present helpfulness or believes a victim is likely to be helpful
- C. When you are certain that the victim will testify at trial
- D. When the defendant is convicted

# Ongoing Assistance

Continuing obligation to provide assistance when reasonably requested

Certification

Application

U Visa

# Regulatory Requirement

While case is pending and after the victim is granted a U visa

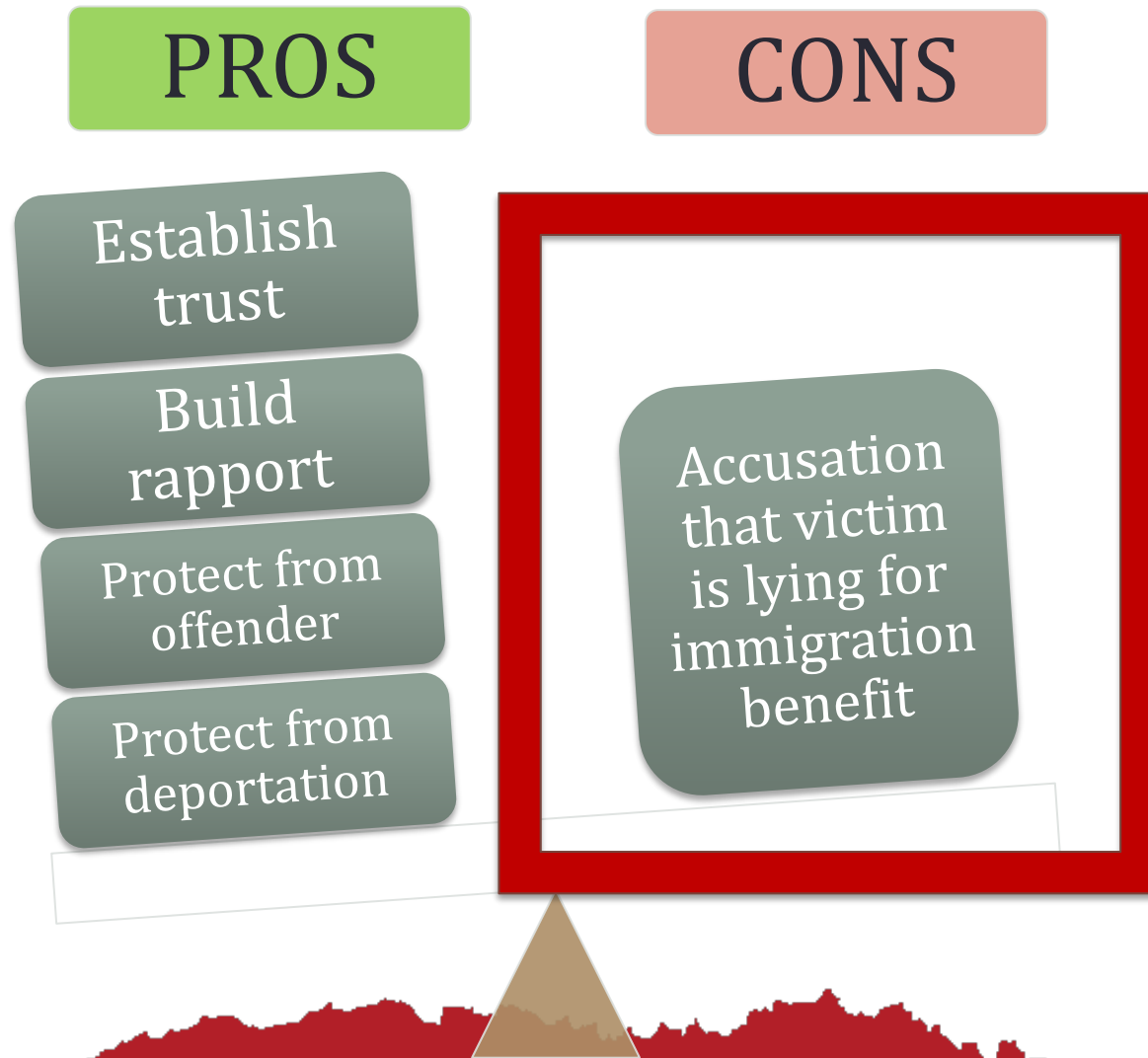
Is the request  
reasonable?

8 C.F.R. 245.24(b)(5)

Is the refusal  
unreasonable?

8 C.F.R. 214.14(b)(3)

# Prosecutors' Primary Concern





# Cross Examination

*Does it go towards the witness' credibility, bias, or motive to lie?*

- Courts take a broad view
- Strategize:
  - Take the “sting” out during direct examination
  - Prepare victim for cross-examination
  - Listen for the defense to “open the door” to rebuttal evidence

# Rebuttal Testimony

- Once the defendant has alleged that the victim has a motive to lie, the prosecution can introduce the victim's prior consistent statements about the charged crime
- Door to this testimony can be opened at any time, but is likely done during cross-examination

# Prior Consistent Statements

## F.R.E. 801(d)(B)

- Non-hearsay
- Not subject to Crawford
- Any consistent statement
  - offered to rebut an express or implied charge that the declarant recently fabricated it or acted from a recent improper influence or motive in so testifying
  - to rehabilitate the declarant's credibility as a witness when attacked on another ground

# Introducing Statements

## Establish timeline

- When did the victim learn about the benefit?
- What statements were made before the victim learned about the immigration benefit

### Victim statements

- 911 call
- First responder
- Detective
- Friends
- Family
- Victim Advocate
- Others

Motive  
to lie

Rebut charge that  
victim is lying to  
get immigration  
benefit

# Certifying Early

PROS

CONS

Establish trust

Build rapport

Protect from offender

Protect from deportation

~~Reasons for certification benefit~~

# Moving Forward

Implement U visa policies that are consistent with the law and legislative intent

Improve victim, community, and law enforcement safety by utilizing the U Visa as a crime fighting tool

Develop trial strategies to overcome common defenses

# Resources, Training and Technical Assistance

# USCIS Resources For Law Enforcement and Prosecutors

- For Technical Assistance regarding the U program: Call the U and T Visa Certifier's Hotline at 240-721-3333
- To Ask a Question about a Specific Case, Withdraw/Disvow a Signed Form, or Report Concern about Fraud in or Misuse of U or T Visa:
- [LawEnforcement\\_UTVAWA.VSC@USCIS.dhs.gov](mailto:LawEnforcement_UTVAWA.VSC@USCIS.dhs.gov)



# Resources

- NIWAP's Library

<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu>

- Materials and tools for law enforcement and prosecutors available at

<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/language-access-materials-for-police-and-prosecutors/>

# Virtual Roundtables and Community of Practices

- Law enforcement, Prosecutors, System-based advocates, community based advocates
- Interactive discussion
  - Strategies to build rapport, establish trust, and ensure safety
  - Ask questions from subject-matter experts and peers
- To register,

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/85>

[FM5NV](#)



# Trainings

- Onsite or virtual training on immigrant crime victim issues and language access
- Available for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, victim service professionals, allied professionals, and others
- To sign up to have us bring a training to your jurisdiction go to:  
<http://www.niwap.org/requesttraining/>

# Technical Assistance

- NIWAP
  - Call: 202.274.4457
  - Email: [niwap@wcl.american.edu](mailto:niwap@wcl.american.edu)
- AEquitas at [www.aequitasresource.org](http://www.aequitasresource.org)
  - Jane Anderson  
[janderson@aequitasresource.org](mailto:janderson@aequitasresource.org)