

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Training Materials¹

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Webinars and Peer to Peer Sessions for Judges or Helpful to Judges

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

- National Judicial Network Webinar – New Regulations, Policies, and Court Rulings: The Impact on State Courts Issuing Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Orders (October 4, 2022) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/njn-webinar-new-regulations-policies-sijs-orders-oct-2022> *
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status – Best Practices of Drafting Findings (May 14, 2019) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/may2019sijs/> *
- U Visa Certifications and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: The Judge’s Role – Webinar National Judicial College (Nov. 30, 2018 Webinar) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/11-30-webinaruvisasijs> *
- State Court Findings for Youth Seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (July 13, 2015) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/state-court-findings-for-abused-youth-seeking-special-immigrant-juvenile-status> *

Training Materials, Tools, Publications, and Government Resources

Immigration Relief for Crime Victims and Children

Know Your Rights Information

- DHS, Interactive Infographic on Protections for Immigrant Victims (November 2021) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/infographic-on-protections-for-immigrant-victims> +
- DHS, Immigration Options for Victims of Crime -DHS Brochure (June 30, 2011) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/imm-options-victims-of-crimes/> +
- USCIS Brochure, Immigration Relief for Abused, Abandoned, or Neglected Children Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification (January 2024) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/uscis-sij-brochure-2024> +
- DHS, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: Information for Juvenile Courts (July 1, 2014) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/uscis-sijs-for-courts> +
- DHS, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: Information for Child Welfare Workers (July 1, 2014) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/uscis-sijs-info-for-childwelfareworkers> +

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

SIJS Training Materials

¹ This materials list includes publications issued by government agencies and materials produced by NIWAP in collaboration with national experts. Each of the materials included in this list that was developed with support from government funders contains the relevant government agency’s disclaimers. Many of the 2012-2016 and 2020-2023 materials on this list were developed under grants SJI 12-E-169, SJI 13-E-199, SJI 14-E-234, SJI 15-T-234, SJI 20-E-005, SJI 21-T-0047 and SJI 22-T-0037 from State Justice Institute. The points of view expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of State Justice Institute.

- Settled Law: The Role of State Court Judges in Making Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Judicial Determinations (September 3, 2024) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/sijs-settled-case-law> *
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status - Case Law Chart (September 3, 2024) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-x-sijs-case-law-chart/> *
- Velasquez v. Miranda, Pennsylvania Supreme court Opinion on SIJS (August 29, 2024) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/supreme-court-opinion-and-judgment-velasquez/>
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Findings Pertaining to Pennsylvania State Court Judges Bench Card (Dec. 7, 2023) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/final-pa-sijs-bench-card> **
- Answers to Questions from State Court Judges on the 2022 Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Regulations (April 4, 2023) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/sijs-q-and-a> *
- In Re Guardianship of Saul H. California Supreme Court Ruling Summary (August 18, 2022) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/guardianship-saul-h-ca-s-ct-training-tool> *
- In Re Guardianship of Saul H (CA S. Ct 8.15.22) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/guardianship-saul-h-ca-s-ct-s271265> +
- Bench Card: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Immigration and Public Benefits Eligibility Process (July 14, 2022) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/sijs-benefits-eligibility-bench-card> *
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Timeline with Background Checks (June 12, 2021) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/sijs-timeline> *
- Judge Julie Breslow, Handout – Immigrant Victims Immigration Options (May 26, 2021) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/immigrant-victims-immigration-options-handout> +
- Factors That Can Demonstrate That It is Not in a Child’s Best Interests to be Returned to Their Home Country (October 2018) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/best-interest-not-to-return> *
- Special Immigrant Juveniles (SISJ): Inadmissibility Factors That Do and Do Not Apply to SIJS Cases” (June 12, 2021) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/inadmissibility-factors-sijs> *
- American Bar Association – Immigration Relief: Legal Assistance for Noncitizen Crime Victims, Chapter 5 Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (March 26, 2018) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/aba-immigration-relief-sijs-chapter> +
- Project Lifeline: State-by-State Age-Out Database <https://projectlifeline.us/resources/state-by-state-age-out-database/> +
- Project Lifeline: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Predicate Order Resource Center <https://projectlifeline.us/predicate-order-resource-center/> +
- New Practice Advisory on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Applications Published: Additional Information for Judges and Attorneys (September 17, 2018) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/new-advisory-sijs-applications/> *
- Abused, Abandoned, or Neglected: Legal Options for Recent Immigrant Women and Girls (August 2016) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/legal-options-recent-imm-women-and-girls> **
- Types of Proceedings in Which State Courts Can Make Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Findings (December 20, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-j-types-of-proceedings-sijs-findings/> *
- Immigration Relief for Abused Children (April 2016) http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/uscis_sijs_brochure +
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: Information for Juvenile Courts (July 1, 2016) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/uscis-sijs-for-courts> +
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: Information for Child Welfare Workers (July 1, 2014) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/uscis-sijs-info-for-childwelfareworkers> +
- Comparison Chart of VAWA, U, and SIJS (July 10, 2015) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/comparison-chart-vawa-u-sijs> *
- Representing Undocumented Children Who Have Been Abused, Neglected, or Abandoned (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status)(153-166)(Winter 2017) in Family Court Proceedings in Winning Custody

Cases for Immigrant Survivors: The Clash of Laws, Cultures, Custody and Parental Rights
https://www.civicrosearchinstitute.com/online/article_abstract.php?pid=6&iid=1269&aid=8306; and
<https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/BTB24-PreCon1E-11.pdf> **

- Special Immigrant Juveniles- Memorandum #2: Clarification of Interim Field Guidance (July 9, 1999)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/sij-memo2/> +
- Webinar: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status – Best Practices of Drafting Findings. (May 14, 2019)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/may2019sij/> *
- Immigration Protection Screening Checklist: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (July 13, 2015)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/imm-sijs-checklist> **

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status SIJS - Full Bench Book

- The Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Bench Book: A National Guide to Best Practice for Judges and Courts (April 2018) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/sijs-bench-book-complete> *

SIJS Bench Book Table of Contents

- Chapter I – Introduction to Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (December 20, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/ch-i-intro-to-sijs/> *
- Chapter II – Details About Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Findings (December 19, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/details-about-special-immigrant-juvenile-status-sijs-findings/> *
- Chapter III – Abuse, Abandonment, or Neglect – The Role of State Law Definitions in Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Findings (December 19, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/abuse-abandonment-or-neglect/> *
- Chapter IV – Application of the Best Interest of the Child Standard in SIJS (December 15, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/application-of-the-best-interest-of-the-child-standard-in-sijs-2/> *
- Chapter V-1 – Adoption Quick Reference (October 29, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/chapter-v-1-adoption-quick-reference/> *
- Chapter V-2 – Civil Protection Orders Quick Reference Guide (November 1, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/ch-v2-civil-protection-orders-quick-reference-guide/> *
- Chapter V-3 – Custody Quick Reference Guide (December 27, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/ch-v3-custody-quick-reference-guide/> *
- Chapter V-4 – SIJS in Declaratory Judgment Cases Quick Reference (November 25, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/chapter-v-4-sijs-in-declaratory-judgment-cases-quick-reference/> *
- Chapter V-5 – Delinquency Quick Reference (December 17, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/chapter-v-5-delinquency-quick-reference/> *
- Chapter V-6 – Dependency Quick Reference (December 18, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/chapter-v-6-dependency-quick-reference/> *
- Chapter V-7 – Guardianship Quick Reference (December 20, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/chapter-v7-guardianship-quick-reference/> *
- Chapter V-8 – Paternity Quick Reference Guide (December 7, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/chapter-v8-paternity-quick-reference-guide/> *
- Chapter VI – Inadmissibility in SIJS (December 27, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/chapter-vi-inadmissibility-in-sijs/> *
- Chapter VII – Service of Process in SIJS (December 29, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/chapter-vii-service-of-process-in-sijs/> *

- Family Law Service of Process and Jurisdiction Requirements Charts (March 2, 2021) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/family-law-service-jurisdiction-charts> *
- Appendix A – SIJS Statutory and Regulatory Provisions (December 19, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-a-sijs-statutory-and-regulatory-provisions/> *
- Appendix B – SIJS Legislative History (December 19, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-b-sijs-legislative-history/> *
- Appendix C – TVPRA-SIJ Neufeld Memo (March 24, 2009) http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-c-tvpra_sij-neufeld-memo-03-24-2009/ +
- Appendix D1 – USCIS SIJS Policy Manual Full – Vol 6 (October, 2022) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-d1-uscis-sijs-policy-manual-full-vol-6/> +
- Appendix D2 – USCIS SIJS Policy Manual Full – Vol 7 (October, 2022) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-d2-uscis-sijs-policy-manual-full-vol-7/> +
- Appendix E – Understanding the Significance of a Minor’s Trauma History in Family Court Rulings (May 17, 2021) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/understanding-effects-of-trauma-on-minors> *
- Appendix F – DHS Interactive Infographic on Protections for Immigrant Victims <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-f-dhs-interactive-infographic-on-protections-for-immigrant-victims/> +
- Appendix G – DHS Immigrants Options for Victims of Crime (English) (February 6, 2018) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-g-dhs-immigration-options-english/> +
- Appendix H – DHS SIJS Brochure (February 6, 2018) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-h-dhs-sijs-brochure/> +
- Appendix I – DOJ Language Access Letter to Courts (August 16, 2010) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-i-language-access-letter-to-courts/> +
- Appendix J – Types of Proceedings SIJS Findings (August 27, 2021) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-j-types-of-proceedings-sijs-findings/> *
- Appendix K – State Law Definitions of Child Abuse (December 19, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-k-state-law-definitions-of-child-abuse-chart/> *
- Appendix L – Abandonment of Children Statutes Definitions (September 20, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-l-abandonment-of-children-statutes-definitions/> *
- Appendix M – State Law Definitions of Child Neglect (October 2, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-m-state-law-definitions-of-child-neglect-chart/> *
- Appendix N – Domestic Violence Includes Child Abuse and Child Neglect (December 14, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-n-domestic-violence-abuse-and-neglect/> *
- Appendix O – States Definitions of Child Endangerment as More Severe Than Neglect (December 27, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-o-endangerment-chart/> *
- Appendix P – State Law Definitions of Forced Marriage as Child Abuse (December 27, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-p-forced-marriage-chart/> *
- Best Interests of the Child State-by-State Maps and Comparison Charts (Updated July 7, 2021) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/best-interest-of-the-child> *
- Appendix Q – Best Interests of the Child Matrix (December 27, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-q-best-interests-of-the-child-matrix/> *
- Appendix Q-1 – Best Interests of the Child All Factors (December 29, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-q1-best-interests-of-the-child-all-factors/> *
- Appendix Q-2 – Best Interests – Catch All (December 29, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-q2-best-interests-catch-all/> *
- Appendix Q-3 – Best Interests – Child’s Family Relationships (December 29, 2017) http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-q3-best-interests-child_s-family-relationships/ *
- Appendix Q-4 – Best Interests – Child’s Needs (December 29, 2017) http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-q4-best-interests-child_s-needs/ *

- Appendix Q-5 – Best Interests – Child’s Wishes (December 29, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-q5-best-interests-childs-wishes/> *
- Appendix Q-6 – Best Interests Continuity and Stability of Child Factor (December 29, 2017)
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- Appendix Q-7 – Best Interests of the Child – Family Violence (December 29, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-q7-best-interests-family-violence/> *
- Appendix Q-8 – Best Interests – Joint Custody (December 29, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-q8-best-interests-joint-custody/> *
- Appendix Q-9 – Best Interests – Parental Cooperation Conflict (December 29, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-q9-best-interests-parental-cooperation-conflict/> *
- Appendix Q-10 – Best Interests – Parental Fitness (December 29, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-q10-best-interests-parental-fitness/> *
- Appendix Q-11 – Best Interests – Parental Wishes (December 29, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-q11-best-interests-parental-wishes/> *
- Appendix Q-12 – Best Interests – Substance Abuse, Mental Illness, and Criminal History Factor (December 29, 2017) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-q12-best-interests-substance-abuse-mental-illness-crim-hist/> *
- Appendix R - Custody in Protection Orders Proceedings (November 9, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-r-custody-in-protection-orders-proceedings/> *
- Appendix S – Using Declaratory Judgment in Family Law Matters (November 16, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-s-using-declaratory-judgment-in-family-law-matters/> *
- Appendix T – Declaratory Judgments – Cases By Topic & State (November 25, 2017)
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- Appendix U – SIJS and State Declaratory Judgment Statutes – State by State (November 26, 2017)
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- Appendix V – Guardianship Appointment of Guardian Chart (November 27, 2017)
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- Appendix W – When Guardianship Terminates (February 2018)
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- Appendix X – SIJS Case Law Chart (Updated April 1, 2024)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-x-sijs-case-law-chart/> *
- Appendix Y – States with Rules Identical to FRCP 4 (February 8, 2018)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-y-states-with-rules-identical-to-frcp-4/> *
- Appendix Z – Glossary of Terms for Work with Immigrant Survivors (Updated November 26, 2017)
<http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-z-glossary/> *

DHS Publications

- USCIS, Immigration Relief for Abused, Abandoned, or Neglected Children Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification (January 2024) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/uscis-sij-brochure-2024> +
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Regulations 1993, 2009, 2011 (Proposed Rule) and 2022 (October 3, 2022) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/sijs-1993-209-2022-regs-comparison> *
- USCIS Policy Manual SIJS Classification and Adjustment of Status (June 10, 2022)
<https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/uscis-policy-manual-sij-and-aos> +
- SIJS Petitions Regulations Final Rule (March 8, 2022)
<https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/2022-04698-sijs-regulations-final-3-8-22-federal-register> +
- Appendix D1 – USCIS SIJS Policy Manual Full – Vol 6 (October, 2022)
<https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-d1-uscis-sijs-policy-manual-full-vol-6> +

- Appendix D2 – USCIS SIJS Policy Manual Full – Vol 7 (October, 2022) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/appendix-d2-uscis-sijs-policy-manual-full-vol-7> +
- USCIS, SIJS Regulations Final Rule Federal Register (March 8, 2022) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/sijs-final-rule-3-8-22> +
- USCIS, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Classification and Deferred Action (March 7, 2022) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/sijs-deferred-action> +
- USCIS Naturalization for Special Immigrant Juveniles (SIJS) (September 21, 2022) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/naturalization-for-sijs-lprs> +
- USCIS, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: Information for Juvenile Courts (July 1, 2014) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/uscis-sijs-for-courts> +
- USCIS, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status: Information for Child Welfare Workers (July 1, 2014) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/uscis-sijs-info-for-childwelfareworkers> +
- Legal Services Corporation, Advisory Opinion 2016-002: Providing Legal Services for Children Seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (July 11, 2016, Revised August 26, 2016) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/lsc-ao-2016-002-revised/> +
- ICE, Prosecutorial Discretion: Certain Victim, Witnesses and Plaintiffs (June 17, 2011) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/discretion-victims-witnesses-plaintiffs/> +
- USCIS< Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Provisions HQOPS 70/8.5 USCIS Memo (March 24, 2009) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/imm-gov-uscismemotvpra2008-03-04-09> +
- HR REP 101-723 Family Unity and Employment Opportunity Immigration Act of 1990 (September 19, 1990)(Legislative History)ty <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/hr-rep-101-723-bsw-sijs-leg-history> +

Public Benefits Access for Immigrant Victims

- Bench Card: Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) Immigration and Public Benefits Eligibility Process (July 13, 2022) <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/sijs-benefits-eligibility-bench-card-final20> *
- Legal Services Corporation, Advisory Opinion 2016-002: Providing Legal Services for Children Seeking Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (July 11, 2016, Revised August 26, 2016) <http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/pubs/lsc-ao-2016-002-revised/> +