

## Have You Been the Victim of a Crime? You May Qualify for a U Visa

### What is a U Visa?

- The U Visa gives protection to immigrants who have been victims of certain crimes.
- Only certain crimes qualify for a U Visa:
  - Serious crimes (such as rape, torture, trafficking, incest, domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual contact, prostitution, false imprisonment, kidnapping, blackmail, extortion, manslaughter, or assault).
  - Crimes that occurred in the U.S. or violated U.S. laws.

### Benefits of the U Visa

- People who are approved for a U Visa:
  - May stay in the U.S., in general, for a period of four years.
  - Will receive a work permit.
- Certain family members may be included on the U Visa application.

### Do You Qualify for a U Visa?

- You may qualify for a U Visa if:
  - You suffered great physical or mental abuse as a result of the serious crime,
  - You have credible and reliable information of the details concerning the crime, AND
  - You will help law enforcement authorities investigate and prosecute the crime.
- You do not qualify for a U Visa if you have been convicted of an aggravated felony. (Talk to an immigration lawyer if you are not sure. Sometimes a misdemeanor under criminal law can be an aggravated felony under immigration law, and sometimes a felony under criminal law is not necessarily an aggravated felony under immigration law.)

### What Should You Do Next?

If you qualify for a U Visa, you should:

1. **Show that you are a victim of a crime.** Put together information about your case.
  - Protection orders, police records, criminal court records;
  - Medical records, school records, photographs of injuries;
  - Your written statement about what happened;
  - Written statements from relatives, friends, shelter workers, counselors, social workers, or clergy who know what happened to you.
2. **Get a written certification from a law enforcement official with jurisdiction over the crime** saying that you are, have been, or will be helpful in the investigation and prosecution of the crime.
3. **Speak with an immigration lawyer** about getting help or filing for a U Visa on your own.

*This information sheet was prepared by the EOIR Legal Orientation Program  
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