



U-Visa

The U visa is a United States non-immigrant visa that is set aside for victims of crimes (and their immediate family members) who have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse while in the U.S. and who are willing to assist law enforcement and government officials in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity. It permits such victims to enter or remain in the US when they might not be able to.

Requirements

There are six legal requirements for U non-immigrant status:

- The applicant must have been a victim of a qualifying criminal activity.
- The applicant must have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse due to being a victim of these criminal activities.
- The applicant must have information concerning that criminal activity.
- The applicant must have been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the crime.
- The criminal activity occurred in the United States or violated U.S. laws.
- The applicant is admissible to the United States under current U.S. immigration laws and regulations; those who are not admissible may apply for a waiver.

Who is eligible for a U-Visa?

To be eligible for a U-Visa, you must meet the following criteria:

- You must have been the victim of a qualifying crime. Qualifying crimes include, but are not limited to, domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and kidnapping.
- You must have cooperated with law enforcement in investigating or prosecuting that crime.
- As a result of your cooperation, you must have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse.

You need to supply law enforcement with a signed certification attesting to your helpfulness in investigating or prosecuting the crime. This certification is also known as Form I-918, Supplement B.

Who is not eligible for a U-Visa?

You are not eligible for a U-Visa if you have been convicted of a felony in the United States. You may also be ineligible if you have been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude or if you are deemed to be a national security risk.

How do I apply for a U-Visa?

To apply for a U-Visa, you must submit the following to USCIS:

- A completed Form I-918
- A completed Supplement B to Form I-918
- Two photographs of yourself
- Evidence of your helpfulness in the investigation or prosecution of a crime, as well as evidence of the abuse you suffered
- A \$460 filing fee

You may also need to submit additional documents, depending on your circumstances.

What happens after I apply for a U-Visa?

Once you have submitted your application, USCIS will review it to ensure that you have met all the eligibility requirements. If they need more information from you, they will request it. Once your application is complete, it will be sent to the National Visa Center for processing. You will be notified when your visa is ready, and you will need to attend an interview at the US embassy or consulate in your home country. At the interview, you must provide evidence that you meet all the eligibility requirements for a U-Visa. You will also need to submit your biometrics, which includes your fingerprints and a photo.

Conclusion:

Applying for a visa can be complicated, but we hope this explanation has made it a little bit easier for you.

Contact us:

Give us a call on **(914) 261 0596** or send an email to **claudiaribaslcsw@gmail.com** to get started with your case.