



AMERICAN **BAR** ASSOCIATION

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Commission on Immigration

**A LEGAL GUIDE FOR ICE  
DETAINEES:**

**Applying for a U Visa  
(For victims of certain crimes)**

**Last Updated April 2020**

**American Bar Association  
Commission on Immigration  
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<sup>1</sup> Vera Institute of Justice, "LOP Curriculum" (Jan. 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, "U Status: A Guide for Crime Victims," (May 2014).

<sup>3</sup> Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC), "Public Charge Update," (Feb. 2020); ILRC, "Getting a U Visa: Immigration help for victims of crime," (Mar. 2012).

<sup>4</sup> Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, "U Visas" (2019).

<sup>5</sup> National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project, "U Visas: Victims of Criminal Activity," *Breaking Barriers: A Complete Guide to Legal Rights and Resources for Battered Immigrants*, American University Washington College of Law and Legal Momentum (July 2013).

<sup>6</sup> Immigrants' Rights Clinic of Stanford Law School, "Getting a U Visa: Immigration help for victims of crime," (Mar. 2012).

<sup>7</sup> Tahirih Justice Center, "U Visa Sample Law Enforcement Certification Form I-918 B."

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## What is a U visa?

A U visa is a temporary immigration status that may be given to victims of severe crimes occurring in the United States, including:

- Violent crimes including murder, manslaughter, felony assault, torture, domestic violence;
- Sex crimes such as rape, sexual assault, abusive sexual contact, prostitution, female genital mutilation, incest;
- Trafficking, involuntary servitude, slave trade, kidnapping, abduction, false imprisonment, unlawful criminal restraint, stalking;
- Blackmail, extortion, witness tampering, peonage, obstruction of justice, perjury, fraud in foreign labor contracting.
- Attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of the above crimes.

Obtaining a U visa allows you to remain in the U.S. for four years, receive automatic work authorization, and does not bar you from public benefits eligibility such as healthcare and food stamps. After three years, you may apply for a green card and eventually U.S. citizenship. A U visa also allows you to apply for certain family members to receive U visas even if those family members were not victims of a crime, do not have lawful immigration status in the U.S. or if they are not in the U.S. at all.

## Do I qualify for a U visa?

Not every person who is the victim of a crime will be eligible for a U visa. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will assess the following factors when considering whether to grant a U visa.

### You are a victim of severe crime or attempted crime

Most U visa applicants are **direct victims** of crime, meaning they were the intended target of the crime. For example, if someone was standing on the street and was hit by the perpetrator, the person who was hit would be a direct victim. In some situations, **indirect victims** may also qualify for a U visa. An indirect victim is someone who was not the target of the crime but suffered harm as a result of the crime anyway. Some examples of indirect victims are:

- **Bystander Victims** – Someone who suffered harm as a result of witnessing a crime. For example, an individual who has a heart attack after seeing a crime occur may be considered a bystander victim and may qualify for a U visa in addition to the direct victim.
- **Deceased Victims** – The spouse and children (under 21 years old) of a murder or manslaughter victim over the age of 21 can be considered indirect victims and may file a U visa application on their own behalf (as the primary applicants). The parents and siblings (under 18 years old) of a deceased victim under age 21 may also file a U visa application as primary applicants.

- **Incapacitated Victims** – For an incapacitated or incompetent crime victim over 21 years of age, his or her spouse and children under 21 years of age may file as primary U visa applicants. If the victim is under 21 years of age, his or her parents and siblings under age 18 years old may file U visa applications.
- **Victims Under 16 years old** – The parents and unmarried siblings under the age of 18 of a victim who is younger than 16 years old may also file U visa applications as indirect victims.

**You do not qualify for a U visa if you participated in the crime!** You may, however, qualify even if you have other convictions not related to the crime on which you are basing the U visa application. But you may be “inadmissible” because of certain crimes and will have to fill out Form I-192 to qualify for a waiver of inadmissibility (see below). If you have any criminal history, you should consult an immigration attorney before you file your application for a U visa.

### The crime occurred in the U.S. and is a violation of U.S. law

In order to be a qualifying crime for a U visa, the crime must have occurred in the U.S. Qualifying crimes must have been committed in the fifty states, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, other U.S. territories (American Samoa, Swain Islands, Bajo Nuevo (the Petrel Islands), Baker Island, Howland Island, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Midway Atoll, Navassa Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palmyra atoll, Seranilla Bank, and Wake Atoll), Indian reservations and allotments, and any U.S. military installation (any area under the control of the U.S. military or Department of Defense, including ships and planes).

Generally, the crime must have occurred in the U.S. in violation of a U.S. law (federal or state). Some crimes that occurred abroad may qualify you for a U visa if there is a federal U.S. statute allowing for jurisdiction over the crime. For example, U.S. nationals who go abroad to commit sexual abuse of minors can be prosecuted in the U.S., and their victims (regardless of location) would qualify for U visas.

**Note:** Victims of human trafficking, including sex and labor trafficking, could apply for a **T visa** instead of a U visa. There are important differences between the two types of visas. For example, U visa applicants are expected to aid law enforcement with the investigation to a much greater extent than T visa applicants. T visa applicants must also have been in the U.S. on account of human trafficking, whereas that requirement does not apply to U visa applicants. If you think you may be eligible for a T visa, please call our line - 2150# from detention centers and 202-442-3363 from outside detention centers – for more information.

### You suffered substantial mental or physical abuse as a result of the crime.

A U visa applicant must have suffered harm as a result of the crime. That harm can be a physical injury or mental injury, such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or severe depression or anxiety. You will need to submit proof of the injuries, such as pictures or medical or mental health records. To decide whether the abuse is “substantial,” the government will consider factors including:

- The nature, extent, and severity of the injury;
- The severity of the perpetrator’s conduct (meaning the severity of the intended crime, regardless of actual impact on victim);
- The duration of the harm (how long you have been suffering from the injury);
- Whether there is actual permanent or lasting harm to physical and/or mental health, or physical appearance of the victim;
  - In some instances, victims who were not the intended target of the perpetrator (“indirect victims”) may also qualify for a U visa if they suffered harm as a result of the crime. See above section.
- Whether the abuse was repetitive; a single instance of abuse may not rise to the level of substantial harm, but several instances of abuse may, such as abuse caused by repetitive instances of domestic violence.
- Aggravation of victim’s preexisting conditions.

### You have information about the crime that is or will be helpful to law enforcement

It is not enough to just have been the victim of the crime, you must also assist law enforcement by reporting the crime and aiding in the investigation if asked. This assistance can take the form of reporting the crime, testifying at the trial, or anything else that law enforcement asks in furtherance of the investigation or prosecution of the crime. As evidence of your helpfulness to law enforcement, **you must submit a signed law enforcement certification** (Form I-918, Supplement B, U Nonimmigrant Status Certification, further discussed below).

The criminal case does not have to result in a successful prosecution for you to qualify for a U visa, so reporting the crime may be sufficient to convince the law enforcement official to sign the Form I-918, Supplement B. However, you must not unreasonably refuse to cooperate at any point of the investigation or for the duration of your U visa status. **Note:** If cooperating with law enforcement’s request would put you or your family in significant danger, your refusal to cooperate may be considered reasonable. You will have to make this argument to the law enforcement official in your request that he or she sign the certification.

## You are “admissible” to the United States.

In order to receive a U visa, you must show that you are otherwise admissible<sup>8</sup> to the U.S. meaning, there is nothing in your immigration record or criminal history that would keep you from staying in the U.S. Most grounds of inadmissibility can be waived for U visa applicants including violations of immigration law and some criminal history. You are inadmissible if you entered the country without valid documents (by coming to the U.S. without a valid visa), returned illegally after being deported, or you committed any other crime under U.S. law.

If you are inadmissible, you may apply for a waiver (using **Form I-192 Application for Advance Permission to Enter as Nonimmigrant**). By submitting a waiver of inadmissibility, you are asking the U.S. government to overlook the fact that you broke the law by entering the country illegally or committing some other crime, due to extenuating circumstances. This waiver is required in order to be granted a U visa. You should submit the application for the waiver at the same time as your U visa application and send it to USCIS.

If you have criminal convictions, you should consult an immigration attorney before submitting your U visa application.

## How do I apply for a U visa?

You must complete **Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status**, and submit it to USCIS. **You cannot apply for a U visa in immigration court.** If you are currently in removal proceedings, you must file the application with USCIS and then ask the immigration judge for a continuance (more time) until your U visa application is processed by USCIS.

Your U-Visa application and all supporting materials should be sent to:

US Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Vermont Service Center  
Attn: U visa  
75 Lower Welden Street  
Saint Albans, VT 05479

Along with Form I-918, you should also file:

- An **affidavit** (written statement) explaining why you should receive a U visa. Your affidavit should include the following information:
  - Biographical information, such as your A number, your country of origin, the date and method of your last entry into the U.S.;
  - Details of the crime, including important information such as when, where, and how it occurred, who perpetrated the crime, whether you were taken to the hospital, when and how you reported the crime, etc.

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<sup>8</sup> All grounds of inadmissibility can be found at 8 U.S.C. § 1182.

- The physical and/or psychological harm that you suffered because of the crime. Explain the impact of the injury on your life. For instance, did you have to miss school or work? Do you continue to struggle with your physical or emotional health after the crime? What kind of treatment have you sought? Did you have to pay significant medical expenses? Has your ability to care for yourself or your family been impacted? It is also helpful to include photos, medical and mental health records, X-rays, and letters from your medical and mental health providers detailing the extent of the harm, if possible.
- Your assistance to law enforcement with the investigation or prosecution of the crime, including how and when you reported it, how law enforcement responded, whether there were arrests made, whether there was a court proceeding, whether you assisted in the law enforcement investigation and/or prosecution. Include names and titles of law enforcement officers.
- **Evidence** that supports your application such as:
  - Police reports, court records, medical and mental health records, statements from witnesses, statements from medical or mental health professionals, statements from your employer, friends, and family, or any other information that supports your case.
  - Submit copies of evidence, not originals.
- **Signed Form I-918, Supplement B, U Nonimmigrant Status Certification.** This is a certification from a law enforcement official that investigated or prosecuted the crime stating that you were a victim and cooperated with the investigation. **This certification is required, and you cannot apply for a U visa without it!**
  - The certification must be signed by an authorized official of a federal or state agency or law enforcement office. Officials may be from any federal and state agencies or federal and state law enforcement with the investigative or prosecutorial authority. These agencies can include:
    - Local and state police departments, sheriff offices, U.S. Marshals, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), federal, state, and local prosecutors and U.S. Attorneys; Child Protective Services; Adult Protective Services; Equal Employment Opportunity commissions; state and federal department of labor (for victims of labor crimes); federal immigration agencies; and other federal, state, and local investigative agencies.
  - The law enforcement official should include the following information on the signed certification: what crime occurred; identification of the U visa applicant as the crime victim; statement that the applicant has been, is being, or likely will be helpful in the investigation; the injuries listed in police report; list of applicant's family members who may be involved in commission of the crime.
  - There is no time limit on how long after the crime you may obtain this certification. But you **must** submit your U-visa application within six (6) months of the date of the signed certification, or you will need to obtain a new certification.



- **Form I-192, Application for Advance Permission to Enter as Nonimmigrant** (if necessary). Submit this form if you are considered “**inadmissible**,” meaning you broke U.S. law when entering the country or after being admitted. See above section on inadmissibility.
  - You are inadmissible if you entered the country without valid documents (by coming to the U.S. without a valid visa), returned illegally after being deported, or you committed any other crime under U.S. law. If you have a criminal history, you should consult an attorney before filing your U visa application.
- **Necessary Fees or a fee waiver request.** There is no fee to apply for a U visa, but there is a **fee of \$930** to submit Form I-192, Application for Advance Permission to Enter as a Nonimmigrant. You may also apply for a fee waiver using Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver.
- **Note** – Be sure to use the newest version of all USCIS forms as they are often updated. Check the USCIS website for up-to-date forms, at <https://www.uscis.gov/forms>.

### Can my family member also get a U visa?

U visa applicants or recipients may apply for certain family members to receive U visas as well. In these situations, the applicant who was the victim of the crime is referred to as the “principal” applicant and any family members he or she is applying for are referred to as “derivative” applicants. Your family member does not have to be in the U.S. currently to receive a derivative U visa. If your family member is in the U.S., he or she does not need to have lawful immigration status in the U.S. to get a derivative U visa. The following family members are eligible to receive derivative U visas:

- If you are older than 21 years at the time you apply for the U visa, you may apply for your **spouse and unmarried children under 21 years old**;
- If you are younger than 21 years at the time you apply for the U visa, you may apply for your **spouse, children, parents, and unmarried siblings who are 18 years old or under** on the date that you apply for the U-Visa.

To apply for a family member, you must submit **Form I-918, Supplement A, Petition for Qualifying Family Member of U-1 Recipient** along with proof of your relationship (marriage certificate or birth certificates). The application for the family member can be submitted at the same time as your application or after your application has been approved.

There is no fee for you to apply for a U visa or for your family members. However, if you or your family member are inadmissible for any reason, you will each need to complete a **Form I-192, Application for Advance Permission to Enter as Nonimmigrant** and the required **\$930** fee or **Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver** if you cannot pay the fee.

If your family members are outside of the U.S. at the time you file your U visa application, and if your application is approved, you may then bring your family members to the U.S. after they go through what is known as **consular processing**. Your family members will report to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate to have their fingerprints taken and get their visa before travelling to the United States.

## What happens after I receive a U visa?

Currently, it can take up to 54 months (about four and a half years) for USCIS to process your application.<sup>9</sup> If your U visa is approved, you should immediately notify the immigration court and provide proof of the approval. You will be able to remain in the United States for **four years**, you automatically receive an **Employment Authorization Document** (EAD - work permit), and you can apply for **Lawful Permanent Resident** (LPR) status (green card) **three years** after your visa is approved. The same applies to any family members who were included on your U visa application, except that their work authorization is not automatic, and they will have to apply via **Form I-765, Application for Work Authorization** and the required fee of \$410 or Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver.

U visa status also does not have any “public charge” barriers, meaning you can apply for public benefits such as healthcare and food stamps after receiving a U visa and it will not negatively affect your immigration status. The recent law impacting indigent migrants who may become “public charges” therefore does not apply to U visa holders, as the U visa is one of the exceptions to the public charge rule.

## Other considerations

### Bond

ICE may choose to release you while your case is pending if they are notified of your U visa application, but they are not required to do so. After filing your U visa application, call ICE at (855) 448-6903 to let them know that you have applied for U visa status to try for release or speak to your deportation officer. ICE may require proof that your application is pending, so you will need to provide your receipt notice (Form I-797C, Notice of Action) showing the date that USCIS received your application.

You may also request a bond hearing from the immigration judge if you are currently in removal proceedings once you receive the signed law enforcement certification form.<sup>10</sup> For more information on bond, please call our line - 2150# from detention centers and 202-442-3363 from outside detention centers.

### Removal

ICE has the authority to return you to your country of origin even if you have a pending U visa application, as there is no automatic stay of removal in this situation. When you apply for a U visa, you must request that the immigration judge temporarily postpone your case (grant you a “continuance”) while your U visa application is processed. You can do so by submitting the request in writing along with a copy of your complete U visa application to the Court. You can also request it in person if you have a hearing before the immigration judge. You will need to provide the Court proof of your pending application (your receipt notice from USCIS).

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<sup>9</sup> Check the USCIS website for estimated processing times at <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/>.

<sup>10</sup> Form I-918 Supplement B.

The immigration judge is not required to postpone your case and may order you removed to your country of origin even if your U visa application is pending. If you are removed from the U.S. after filing a U visa petition, you may return if your U visa petition is eventually approved. However, you will need to address your removal order in your application for waiver of inadmissibility.

### Visa Cap

There are only 10,000 U visas available in the U.S. every year, which accounts for the long wait for a U visa. There have been so many people who have applied for the U visa, the yearly cap is reached as soon as the new year starts over. Luckily, there are no caps on the number of derivative U visa applicants, so once the principal U visa is granted, the derivative U visas will also be granted or you can apply for derivative applicants without an additional wait.

## APPENDIX A: SAMPLE COVER LETTER

USCIS Vermont Service Center  
75 Lower Welden St  
St. Albans, VT 05479-0001

*Your Address:*

*Date:*

To whom it may concern,

RE: U Visa Application

I am a *pro se* applicant for the U Visa. I have provided the details of my case below.

Full name:  
Date of birth:  
Alien number:  
Country of origin:

My application and supporting documents are attached below. Thank you for your time and consideration for my application. Please feel free to contact me if you need more information.

Sincerely,

---

(Signature)

Print full name

# APPENDIX B: SAMPLE FORM I-918 SUPPLEMENT B, U NONIMMIGRANT STATUS CERTIFICATION

*Only fill out Part 1. Certifying law enforcement official should fill out the rest.*



## 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

For USCIS Use Only	Remarks
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▶ **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

### 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

### Agency Address

5.a. Street Number and Name

5.b.  Apt.  Ste.  Flr.

5.c. City or Town

5.d. State  5.f. ZIP Code

5.g. Province

5.h. Postal Code

5.i. Country

### Other Agency Information

6. Agency Type  
 Federal  State  Local

7. Case Status  
 On-going  Completed  
 Other

8. Certifying Agency Category  
 Judge  Law Enforcement  Prosecutor  
 Other

9. Case Number

10. FBI Number or SID Number (if applicable)

**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 checked="" 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                              |

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.

Intrafamily violence DC Statutory Code  
16-1002

4.a. Did the criminal activity occur in the United States (including Indian country and military installations) or the territories or possessions of the United States?

Yes  No

4.b. If you answered "Yes," where did the criminal activity occur?

5.a. Did the criminal activity violate a Federal extraterritorial jurisdiction statute?  Yes  No

5.b. If you answered "Yes," provide the statutory citation providing the authority for extraterritorial jurisdiction.

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.

Ms. X reported that her ex-husband,  
Mr. XX, pushed her, kicked her  
repeatedly, and threatened to kill  
her.

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



**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

3.a. Family Name (Last Name)

3.b. Given Name (First Name)

3.c. Middle Name

3.d. Relationship

3.e. Involvement

4.a. Family Name (Last Name)

4.b. Given Name (First Name)

4.c. Middle Name

4.d. Relationship

4.e. Involvement

**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



**Part 7. Additional Information**

If you need extra space to complete any item within this supplement, use the space below or attach a separate sheet of paper; type or print the agency's name, petitioner's name, and the Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (if any) at the top of each sheet; indicate the **Page Number**, **Part Number**, and **Item Number** to which your answer refers; and sign and date each sheet. If you need more space than what is provided, you may also make copies of this page to complete and file with this supplement.

1. Agency Name

Washington DC Police Department

**Petitioner's Name**

2.a. Family Name (Last Name) x

2.b. Given Name (First Name) xxx

2.c. Middle Name xx

3. A-Number (if any)

▶ A-

4.a. Page Number    4.b. Part Number    4.c. Item Number

4.d.

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## APPENDIX C: SAMPLE AFFIDAVIT

### Declaration of [Your Full Name] in Support of Application for U Nonimmigrant Status

1. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I was born in (City, State or Province, Country) on (Date of Birth).
2. I first arrived in the United States on (date of entry) through (port of entry or closest city if entered without inspection).
3. (Explain how you came to the U.S. and what extenuating circumstances brought you here, if any.)
4. (Take as much space as needed to explain your story but be concise and do not over explain or include unnecessary details.)
5. On (date), in (location, city, state), I was the victim of (specific crime).
6. The crime was perpetrated by (name of offender).
7. (Provide details about the crime. Explain what happened in chronological order.)
8. (Explain the crime's effect on you. Explain any physical or mental injuries you suffered. Explain any medical or psychological treatment that you sought.)
9. (Explain when you reported the crime and how you helped the police.)
10. (Explain why you need a waiver.)

*Remember that in addition to the above example documents, you also need to submit the main application form, Form I-918, and if necessary, submit Form I-918 Supplement A for family members, Form I-192 if you need a waiver, and Form I-912 if you need a fee waiver.*