**The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department works tirelessly to offer support and resources for victims of crimes.**

**This includes frequent participation in the U-Visa process, and ensuring that victims of crimes can efficiently apply for U-Nonimmigrant status.**

**We have mechanisms in place to make sure U-Visa requests are reviewed and certified in a thorough yet timely manner.**

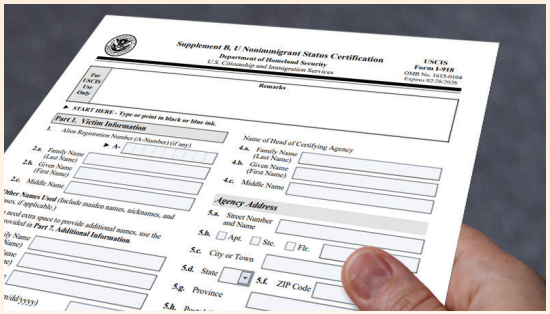
**Public safety has always been our Department's top priority; victim participation in the prosecution of a case, oftentimes through the U-Visa, is critical to this mission.**



# DISCLAIMER

**The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department does not grant or guarantee a U-Visa or any other immigration status by signing a U-Visa certification (Form I-918B).**

Form I-918B and its instructions are available on the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov. The information provided herein is offered for general information purposes only. Each case and its circumstances are unique. Therefore, if legal advice is needed, please contact an immigration attorney or immigration advocate for assistance.




For further information contact your local station U-Visa coordinator

Los Angeles County
Sheriff's Department

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# A Victim's Guide to the U-Visa Program

## U-Visa Guide




HAVE YOU BEEN THE VICTIM OF A CRIME?

WERE YOU HELPFUL WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT?

WERE YOU HURT?

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR A U-VISA

WWW.LASD.ORG

# WHAT IS A U-VISA

The U-Visa is a nonimmigrant visa provided by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to nonimmigrant victims of serious crimes in the U.S. so they may provide information helpful to law enforcement and prosecutors without fear of deportation.

U-Visa nonimmigrant status issuance is limited to a cap of 10,000 victims per year.

After a victim files an application for a U-Visa, the USCIS reviews the petition for eligibility. Once determined eligible, the USCIS approves the victim's petition for U-nonimmigrant status. If the cap on the U-Visas for the year has been met, the victim is placed on a waiting list. Deferred action and work authorization are granted to the victim after placement on the waiting list, if the petitioner is in the U.S.

This brochure is a guide for the criteria needed to obtain law enforcement certification for Form I-918, supplement B, a necessary part of the application process. A partial list of the requirements to apply for a U-Non Immigrant Visa are listed in the "U-Visa Certification Criteria" section of this brochure. A complete list is available from the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov.




# U-VISA CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

- **Qualifying Crime**
  The applicant has been a victim of a "qualifying crime"
- **Substantial Harm**
  The applicant suffered "Substantial physical or mental abuse" from the criminal activity
- **Information**
  The applicant possesses information concerning the criminal activity (if the victim is under 16 a parent or guardian can show they possess information on behalf of the victim)
- **Cooperation**
  The applicant "is being, has been or is likely to be helpful" in the investigation or prosecution of a crime
- **Location**
  The crime must have occurred in the United States (includes Tribal Lands, military installations, or territories of the U.S.)




# WHAT CRIMES QUALIFY

- Murder
- Manslaughter
- Felonious Assault
- Rape
- Torture
- Incest
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Prostitution
- Perjury
- Slave Trade/Trafficking
- Fraud in Foreign Labor Contracting
- Kidnapping/Hostage
- Abduction
- Debt Slavery
- False Imprisonment
- Witness Tampering
- Obstruction of Justice
- Or substantially similar crime

Or attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of the above crimes.

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