



U VISA FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME FACT SHEET

What is the “U” Visa?

The “U” Visa is a legal status created in the year 2000 in an effort to protect immigrants who are victims of any of the following criminal activity/activities, which occurred in the United States:

- Domestic violence
- Rape
- Sexual Assault
- Incest
- Abusive sexual contact
- Sexual Exploitation
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Trafficking
- Manslaughter
- Murder
- Abduction
- Kidnapping
- Criminal Assault
- Involuntary Servitude
- Torture
- Prostitution
- Slave Trade
- Held Hostage
- False imprisonment
- Perjury
- Obstruction of Justice
- Witness Tampering
- Blackmail
- Extortion

Who May Be Eligible For The “U” Visa?

The “U” Visa is for victims who cooperate in the investigation and/or prosecution of the person who committed one of the above-mentioned crimes.

Requirements:

- You have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of being a victim of one of the above-mentioned crimes;
- You possess information concerning the criminal activity;
- There is a criminal report filed with the law enforcement officials;
- The criminal activity occurred in the United States; and
- You receive a certification from the head of a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency or designated official.

Certain family members of victims may also be eligible for a derivative U visa.

What If I Don’t Know The Person Who Committed the Crime Against Me?

- It is not necessary that you know the person who committed the crime against you.
- It is not necessary that the person who committed the crime against you be a citizen or a legal permanent resident (LPR) of the United States.

What are the Benefits of the “U” Visa?

- A “U” Visa recipient has the right to obtain an employment authorization document (EAD) and receive certain public benefits.
- After 3 years, it is possible for a “U” Visa recipient to adjust his/her status to LPR.

What if I crossed the border or have another ground of inadmissibility?

- You should consult an attorney as you may qualify for a waiver for certain grounds of inadmissibility.

If you would like more information about MSP’s Immigration Unit, please call Marissa Beckett at 914-683-1333