

MONTEREY COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JEANNINE M. PACIONI, DISTRICT ATTORNEY



Victims of Criminal Activity: U Nonimmigrant Status (U Visa)

What is a U-Visa?

The purpose of the U-visa is to give victims of qualifying criminal activities, who have been helpful with law enforcement, temporary legal status and work eligibility in the U.S. for up to 4 years. An individual may be eligible for a U-visa if he/she:

- Is the direct or indirect victim of a qualifying criminal activity.
- Has suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of having been a victim of criminal activity.
- Has information about the criminal activity.
- Was helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful to law enforcement throughout the investigation and/or prosecution of the criminal activity.

Additionally, certain family members of a U-visa recipient may also be eligible to live and work in the United States as “derivative” U-visa recipients based on their relationship with the principal recipient.

Please note, the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office will only review I-918B certification requests for cases that have been filed by this office. If the case was not referred to this office for review, you should direct your certification request to the law enforcement agency that took the report.

Further, this office will only review I-918B certification requests submitted by the following:

- Self-represented individuals.
- Licensed Attorneys, in good standing. *Please include your Bar number.*
- Office of Legal Access Programs (OLAP) accredited organizations and representatives.

Listed in the table below are general categories of qualifying crimes:

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|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| • Abduction | • Incest | • Slave Trade |
| • Abusive Sexual Contact | • Involuntary Servitude | • Stalking |
| • Being Held Hostage | • Kidnapping | • Torture |
| • Blackmail | • Manslaughter | • Trafficking |
| • Domestic Violence | • Obstruction of Justice | • Unlawful Criminal Restraint |
| • Extortion | • Peonage | • Witness Tampering |
| • False Imprisonment | • Perjury | • Attempt, Conspiracy, or Solicitation to Commit |
| • Felonious Assault | • Prostitution | Any of the Named Crimes |
| • Female Genital Mutilation | • Rape | |
| • Fraud in Foreign Labor Contracting | • Sexual Assault | |
| | • Sexual Exploitation | |

MORE INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

U-VISA Request Information

If a victim believes he/she may qualify for a U visa, the victim or his/her representative may submit a I-918, Supplement B certification request to the Monterey County District Attorney's Office for consideration.

Certifying Official:

Berkley Brannon, Chief Assistant District Attorney

Reviewer:

Andrea Lopez, Legal Assistant
142 W. Alisal Street, Suite A
Salinas, CA 93901
Phone: (831) 755-5085
Fax: (831) 755-5003
LopezA14@co.monterey.ca.us

Requests should be submitted to Andrea Lopez at the address above. *Email submissions are preferred* but not required.

When submitting a request for certification, please include the following:

- A cover letter, including contact information (mailing address and phone number) for the applicant and representative, the applicant's name and date of birth, defendant's name, crime report number, date of incident, and address or city where the incident occurred.
- Partially complete I-918B. Please complete "Part 1. Victim Information" and leave the rest blank for the reviewer to complete. Current I-918B forms can be downloaded from the USCIS website at (<https://www.uscis.gov/i-918>).
- If available, a copy of the applicant's valid Photo ID.
- Whether the applicant is in removal proceedings and if applicable, proof that the applicant is in removal proceedings.

IN LIEU OF A COVER LETTER, SELF-REPRESENTED INDIVIDUALS MAY SUBMIT THE BELOW QUESTIONNAIRE TO REQUEST AN I-918B CERTIFICATION.

[U VISA QUESTIONNAIRE](#)

Please understand that a certification alone does not automatically confer immigration benefits. Obtaining a certifying official's signature from this office is just one of the requirements to apply for a U visa. If a certification is issued by this office, it is up to the applicant or his/her representative to submit a complete U-Visa application, including Form I-918, Supplement B, to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for processing.

Please refer to the website of the [United States Citizenship and Immigration Services \(USCIS\)](#) for further information regarding U visa eligibility, qualifying criminal activities, and applying for U nonimmigrant status.

Did you know?

An individual can choose to self-represent themselves throughout the U-visa application process. However, it is recommended that you hire a legal representative to assist you with the process. Applicants must go through a lengthy immigration process that requires rigorous documentation and review by USCIS. Representatives will review your case with you and submit a certification request to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Before selecting an attorney to assist you with your U-visa, you can check the attorney's legal status by going on to: www.calbar.ca.gov/Attorneys

To verify if an organization is Department of Justice (DOJ) accredited through the Office of Legal Access Programs you can look for their name on the: www.justice.gov/eoir/recognition-accreditation-roster-reports webpage.

Accredited Non-Profits in Monterey County available to assist with U-Visas

Catholic Charities

1705 Second Avenue

Salinas, CA 93905

Phone: (831) 422-0602

E-mail: charities.imm@catholiccharitiescentralcoast.org

Website: <https://catholiccharitiesdom.org/immigration-citizenship/>

**Locations in Seaside, Salinas, and Greenfield*

United Farmworkers Foundation

118 E. Gabilan Street

Salinas, CA 93901

Phone: (831) 758-2611

Website:

http://www.ufwfoundation.org/crime_survivors