







and Education Fund

## Comparing Forms of Immigration Relief for Immigrant Victims of Crime<sup>1</sup>

This chart is a basic outline of various forms of immigration relief<sup>2</sup> available to immigrant crime victims including domestic violence, sexual assault and trafficking victims. This chart is for informational purposes only and should not be used to practice immigration law. The chart will help an attorney or advocates determine which form of relief best meets the needs of their client.<sup>3</sup>

|                                                                              | U-visa                                                                                                                                       | T-visa                                                                                                                                                                        | Continued<br>Presence                                                     | VAWA self-petition <sup>4</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Battered spouse<br>waiver                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Special<br>Immigrant<br>Juvenile Status<br>(SIJS)                                                                                                          | Deferred Action<br>for Childhood<br>Arrivals (DACA)                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Section 106 :<br>A, G, E3, and<br>H visa<br>recipients                    |
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| How and When<br>Does it Provide<br>Authorization to<br>Accept<br>Employment? | An applicant<br>receives<br>employment<br>authorization upon<br>approval. (No<br>separate forms are<br>necessary for<br>principal applicant) | An applicant<br>receives<br>employment<br>authorization upon<br>receipt of a <i>bona</i><br><i>fide</i> determination<br>from USCIS (after<br>filing but before<br>approval). | An applicant<br>receives<br>employment<br>authorization<br>upon approval. | An applicant receives<br>employment<br>authorization upon filing<br>if the abuser is a U.S.<br>Citizen and the applicant<br>has jointly filed an<br>application for lawful<br>permanent residency<br>(Application to Register<br>Permanent status or<br>Adjust Status Form I-<br>485) as an immediate<br>relative of a U.S. Citizen.<br>Otherwise, an applicant<br>receives employment<br>authorization upon<br>approval. | Receipt of application for<br>a battered spouse <sup>5</sup><br>waiver of the joint filing<br>requirement (Petition to<br>Remove Conditions on<br>Residence Form I-751)<br>extends conditional<br>lawful permanent<br>residence, which<br>provides evidence of<br>lawful work<br>authorization. This<br>extension lasts one year<br>and is renewable. | May be eligible to<br>receive<br>employment<br>authorization during<br>the pendency of the<br>application once<br>SIJS packet is<br>submitted to<br>USCIS. | File employment<br>authorization<br>concurrently with<br>DACA, because<br>approval of the<br>employment<br>authorization is<br>contingent on<br>approval of DACA.<br>Should receive work<br>authorization 1-2<br>days from the<br>approval of DACA. | An applicant<br>receives<br>employment<br>authorization<br>upon approval. |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> By: Leslve E. Orloff, Rocio Molina, Pete Helein, Andrea Carcamo-Cavazos, and Benish Anver. This toolkit was adapted from materials developed by Legal Momentum. Copyright solely to National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project, American University Washington College of Law © 2013.

<sup>3</sup> An individual may apply for more than one form of relief if eligible.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Of the applications listed on this chart, T and U visas, and approval of a battered spouse waiver provide legal immigration status. Those individuals with legal immigration status who are or who become inadmissible or deportable may not necessarily be comprehensively protected from deportation. Continued presence and deferred action received as a result of an approved VAWA self-petition do not provide lawful immigration status although those individuals are a lower priority for deportation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Windsor decision on DOMA and USCIS policy deem same-sex married couples "spouses" for immigration purposes. <u>United States v. Windsor</u>, 12-307 WL 3196928; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/immigration/doma/USCIS-DOMA-Implementation-FAQ.pdf/view

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Note 4 on the Supreme Court decision on DOMA and USCIS policy. Provided that the initial petition was based on same-sex spouses.

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|                                                                                                                        | U-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | T-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Continued<br>Presence                                                                                                                                                                                                     | VAWA self-petition <sup>4</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Battered spouse<br>waiver                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Special<br>Immigrant<br>Juvenile Status<br>(SIJS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Deferred Action<br>for Childhood<br>Arrivals (DACA)                                                                                                                                                                  | Section 106 :<br>A, G, E3, and<br>H visa<br>recipients                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| How and when<br>will the<br>applicant<br>receive some<br>limited<br>protection<br>against<br>deportation? <sup>6</sup> | Upon filing for U-visa<br>an applicant will be<br>flagged as "384"in<br>DHS' system which<br>signifies the<br>applicant has<br>pending or approved<br>VAWA<br>confidentiality-<br>protected case. This<br>system will help stop<br>removal of victims<br>with pending and<br>approved U-visa<br>cases, or upon a<br>prima facie<br>determination and<br>approval by USCIS. | Upon filing for T-<br>visa an applicant will<br>be flagged as<br>"384"in DHS' system<br>which signifies the<br>applicant has<br>pending or approved<br>VAWA<br>confidentiality-<br>protected case. This<br>system will help stop<br>removal of victims<br>with pending and<br>approved T-visa<br>cases, or upon a<br>prima facie<br>determination and<br>approval by USCIS.<br>Upon being granted<br>a T-visa or having<br>previously been<br>granted continued<br>presence. | Upon being<br>awarded<br>continued<br>presence.                                                                                                                                                                           | Upon filing for VAWA<br>Self-Petition an<br>applicant will be flagged<br>as "384"in DHS' system<br>which signifies the<br>applicant has pending or<br>approved VAWA<br>confidentiality-protected<br>case. This system will<br>help stop removal of<br>victims with pending and<br>approved VAWA, cases.<br>Also upon approval of<br>the VAWA self-petition<br>when the victim is<br>granted deferred action<br>status | Conditional residency<br>offers protection against<br>deportation. <sup>7</sup>                                                                                                                                                          | As soon as the<br>youth submits the<br>SIJS packet to<br>USCIS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Affirmative: Once<br>DACA is received.<br>Defensive: DACA<br>eligible individuals in<br>immigration<br>detention should<br>notify their detention<br>officer or contact the<br>ICE Office of the<br>Public Advocate. | N/A.<br>Requirement of<br>retaining non-<br>immigrant<br>status. Non-<br>immigrant<br>status refers to<br>the permission<br>to be in the<br>country for a<br><i>definite</i> time.<br>An example of<br>a non-<br>immigrant visa<br>is a tourist visa. |
| Process                                                                                                                | The applicant files<br>U-visa (Form I-918)<br>at the VAWA Unit of<br>Vermont Service<br>Center of USCIS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | The applicant files T-<br>visa (Form I-914) at<br>the VAWA Unit of<br>Vermont Service<br>Center of USCIS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ICE <sup>8</sup> Special<br>Agent in Charge<br>sends to Office of<br>International<br>Affairs' Law<br>Enforcement<br>Parole Branch,<br>which sends the<br>approval to<br>USCIS to process<br>employment<br>authorization. | The applicant files the<br>VAWA self-petition<br>(Form I-360) at the<br>VAWA Unit of Vermont<br>Service Center of<br>USCIS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Applicant files the<br>battered spouse waiver<br>(Form I-751) either at<br>the VAWA Unit of<br>Vermont Service Center<br>(USCIS) or at California<br>Service Center of<br>USCIS depending on in<br>which state the applicant<br>resides. | Affirmative: Prepare<br>and submit forms I-<br>360, I-485 (green<br>card), and I-765<br>(work permit if<br>needed while<br>application<br>pending) at the<br><u>same</u> time with<br>USCIS.<br>Defensive (if child<br>in removal<br>proceedings): file I-<br>360 with USCIS,<br>once it is approved<br>file I-485 with the<br>immigration judge. | Prepare forms I-<br>821D, I-765, and I-<br>765WS(economic<br>need supplemental<br>form) at the same<br>time with USCIS.                                                                                              | File form I-765<br>and I-765V<br>concurrently<br>with the<br>Vermont<br>Service Center.                                                                                                                                                               |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Only citizens are fully protected from deportation. Non-citizens including those with visas and lawful permanent residency can be deported if they are convicted of committing crimes. Additionally, some immigrants who have received deferred action (agreement by DHS that their removal is a low priority) may still become subject to enforcement actions. Thus, the protections against deportation listed here may not provide full protection for immigrant victims.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Conditional residents can be deported if they commit crimes, leave the U.S. for more than 6 months during a year and if they do not apply for or are denied lawful permanent residency toward the end of their two year conditional residency status.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is one of two agencies within DHS responsible for immigration enforcement, detention and removal. The other DHS agency with immigration enforcement authority is U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP).

|                                                                                                    | U-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | T-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Continued<br>Presence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | VAWA self-petition <sup>4</sup>                                                                                                                                                                    | Battered spouse<br>waiver                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Special<br>Immigrant<br>Juvenile Status<br>(SIJS)                                                       | Deferred Action<br>for Childhood<br>Arrivals (DACA) | Section 106 :<br>A, G, E3, and<br>H visa<br>recipients                                                                                                                                                     |
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| Qualifying<br>Family<br>Beneficiaries<br>(still must<br>potentially meet<br>other<br>requirements) | Qualifying family<br>members for victims<br><u>over</u> 21 include<br>spouses <sup>9</sup> and<br>children under 21.<br>Qualifying family<br>members of victims<br><u>under</u> 21 include<br>spouses, children,<br>parents, and<br>unmarried siblings<br>under 18.                      | Qualifying family<br>members for victims<br><u>over</u> 21 include<br>spouses <sup>10</sup> and<br>children under 21,<br>and if facing<br>retaliation parents<br>and unmarried<br>sibling sunder age<br>18. Qualifying family<br>members of victims<br><u>under</u> 21 include<br>spouses, children,<br>parents, and<br>unmarried siblings<br>under 18. | Qualifying family<br>members for<br>victims <u>over</u> 21<br>include spouses <sup>11</sup><br>and children<br>under 21.<br>Qualifying family<br>members of<br>victims <u>under</u> 21<br>include spouses,<br>children, parent,<br>and unmarried<br>siblings under 18.<br>A qualifying family<br>members may<br>receive parole if<br>that individual<br>faces retaliation<br>as a result of the<br>victim's<br>cooperation. | Children under age 21 at<br>the time of filing.                                                                                                                                                    | Children who have<br>conditional resident<br>status may apply with a<br>conditional resident<br>parent. However, if the<br>battered immigrant's<br>child did not receive<br>conditional residency<br>that child cannot obtain<br>legal permanent<br>residence through the<br>parent's battered spouse<br>waiver application. | CANNOT petition<br>for immigration<br>benefits for any<br>family members,<br>even if becomes<br>LPR.    | None                                                | If child brought<br>under one of<br>the enumerated<br>visas in this<br>category is<br>battered or<br>subjected to<br>extreme<br>cruelty, non-<br>abusive parent<br>can apply for<br>work<br>authorization. |
| Qualifying<br>criminal activity                                                                    | Qualifying U-visa<br>criminal activity<br>includes but is not<br>limited to domestic<br>violence (including<br>child abuse and<br>elder abuse), sexual<br>assault, and human<br>trafficking. An<br>applicant may be a<br>victim of any<br>qualifying criminal<br>activity. <sup>12</sup> | This visa is only<br>available to victims<br>of a "severe form of<br>trafficking in<br>persons."                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | This protection is<br>only available to<br>victims of a<br>"severe form of<br>trafficking in<br>persons."                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Self-petitioners must<br>have been subject to<br>battery or extreme<br>cruelty, which includes<br>forms of emotional<br>abuse and does not<br>have to rise to the level<br>of a criminal activity. | Battered spouse waiver<br>applicants must have<br>been subject to battery<br>or extreme cruelty,<br>includes forms of<br>emotional abuse and<br>does not have to rise to<br>the level of a criminal<br>activity.                                                                                                             | Neglect and/or<br>abuse and/or<br>abandonment of<br>the immigrant child<br>by the parent or<br>parents. | N/A. Not a<br>requirement.                          | Victim has to<br>have been<br>battered or<br>have been<br>subjected to<br>extreme cruelty<br>by the<br>spouse. <sup>13</sup>                                                                               |

<sup>9</sup> See Note 4 on the Supreme Court decision on DOMA and USCIS policy.
<sup>10</sup> See Note 4 on the Supreme Court decision on DOMA and USCIS policy.

<sup>11</sup> See Note 4 on the Supreme Court decision on DOMA and USCIS policy.

<sup>12</sup> Qualifying criminal activity includes rape, torture, trafficking, incest, domestic violence, sexual assault, abusive sexual contact, prostitution, sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation, being held hostage, peonage, involuntary servitude, slave trade, kidnapping, abduction, unlawful criminal restraint, false imprisonment, blackmail, extortion, manslaughter, murder, felonious assault, witness tampering, stalking, obstruction of justice, perjury, solicitation to commit any of the above-mentioned crimes, or any similar activity in violation of federal, state, or local criminal law. This list also includes attempts or conspiracy to commit any of the listed activities.

<sup>13</sup> See Note 4 on the Supreme Court decision on DOMA and USCIS policy. But, unclear as to whether USCIS will consider same-sex couples married in another country "spouses" for immigration law purposes.

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|                                                                                               | U-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | T-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Continued<br>Presence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | VAWA self-petition <sup>4</sup>                                   | Battered spouse<br>waiver | Special<br>Immigrant<br>Juvenile Status<br>(SIJS)                                                        | Deferred Action<br>for Childhood<br>Arrivals (DACA) | Section 106 :<br>A, G, E3, and<br>H visa<br>recipients |
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| Requirement of<br>applicant's<br>cooperation<br>with law<br>enforcement                       | An applicant must<br>submit a U-visa<br>certification (Form I-<br>918 Supplement B)<br>signed by a<br>designated law<br>enforcement officer,<br>judge, prosecutor or<br>other state of federal<br>government official<br>involved in<br>detection,<br>investigation, or<br>prosecution of<br>criminal activity. An<br>applicant may be<br>certified if he or she<br>is a victim of a<br>qualifying criminal<br>activity and has<br>been, is being, or is<br>likely to be helpful in<br>an investigation or<br>prosecution.<br>Certification is<br>encouraged as soon<br>as possible and<br>certifying<br>helpfulness does not<br>hinge on a case<br>proceeding beyond<br>detection or<br>investigation of a<br>crime. | An applicant must<br>submit proof of<br>reasonable<br>cooperation with a<br>trafficking<br>investigation or<br>prosecution and may<br>submit a law<br>enforcement<br>certification on Form<br>I-914 Supplement B<br>as proof. <u>The law<br/>enforcement</u><br><u>certification is not</u><br><u>required</u> . Proof of<br>continued presence<br>may be submitted as<br>secondary evidence.<br>Certification is<br>encouraged as soon<br>as possible and<br>certifying<br>cooperation does<br>not hinge on a case<br>proceeding beyond<br>detection or<br>investigation of a<br>crime. | Only law<br>enforcement may<br>request that ICE<br>request continued<br>presence for<br>someone who is<br>cooperating with<br>an investigation or<br>prosecution. A<br>request for<br>continued<br>presence is<br>encouraged as<br>soon as possible<br>and does not<br>hinge on a case<br>proceeding<br>beyond detection<br>or investigation of<br>a crime. | None.                                                             | None.                     | None.                                                                                                    | None.                                               | None.                                                  |
| Require proof of<br>applicant's good<br>moral character                                       | No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Proof of good moral<br>character is not<br>required for the T-<br>visa application but<br>is required to be<br>granted lawful<br>permanent<br>residency.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Proof of good moral<br>character is required to<br>self-petition. | No                        | No                                                                                                       | No.                                                 | No.                                                    |
| Requirement<br>that applicant<br>faces extreme<br>hardship if<br>returning to<br>home country | There is no<br>requirement of<br>extreme hardship.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | An applicant must<br>prove "extreme<br>hardship involving<br>unusual and severe<br>harm upon removal."                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | There is no<br>requirement of<br>extreme hardship.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | No.                                                               | No.                       | Requires proof that<br>it is against the best<br>interests of the<br>child to return to<br>home country. | No.                                                 | No.                                                    |

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|                                           | U-visa                                                                                                       | T-visa                                                                              | Continued<br>Presence | VAWA self-petition <sup>4</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Battered spouse<br>waiver                                                                                                                                        | Special<br>Immigrant<br>Juvenile Status<br>(SIJS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Deferred Action<br>for Childhood<br>Arrivals (DACA)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Section 106 :<br>A, G, E3, and<br>H visa<br>recipients                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| Other<br>Requirements of<br>the Applicant | The applicant<br>suffered substantial<br>physical or mental<br>abuse as a result of<br>the qualifying crime. | The applicant is<br>physically present in<br>the U.S. on account<br>of trafficking. | None.                 | The abuser must be the spouse, intended spouse, have been a spouse within 2 years of filing, parent (or step parent) of the victim. <sup>14</sup> The abuser must be a Lawful Permanent Resident or a U.S. Citizen. For victims whose abuser is a spouse, the victim must also show good faith marriage. The applicant must also show he or she resided with the abuser at some point during the marriage. | The applicant must be a conditional permanent resident to apply. The applicant must also demonstrate that the applicant married the abuser spouse in good faith. | -Under 21 years old<br>and unmarried<br>(most jurisdictions<br>will not declare a<br>youth dependent<br>once they are 18 or<br>older).<br>-Having been<br>abused, neglected<br>or abandoned by<br>one or both<br>parents.<br>-Reunification with<br>parent who abused,<br>neglected or<br>abandoned is not<br>viable.<br>-It is not in the best<br>interest of the child<br>to return to home<br>country.<br>-need of a court<br>order placing<br>child/juvenile under<br>jurisdiction of a<br>state juvenile,<br>family, or probate<br>court. | -under 31 years of<br>age as of June 15,<br>2012.<br>-Have been in the<br>U.S. from June 15,<br>2007 to the present<br>(brief and innocent<br>absences for<br>humanitarian<br>reasons do not<br>count).<br>-entered without<br>inspection before<br>June 15, 2012 OR<br>lawful status expired<br>before this date.<br>-Physically present<br>in the U.S. June 6,<br>2012 and when<br>applying to DACA.<br>-In school,<br>graduated from High<br>School, GED, or<br>have been<br>honorably<br>discharged from<br>coast guard or<br>armed forced.<br>-no felony offense, a<br>significant<br>misdemeanors and<br>cannot be a threat to<br>national security or<br>public safety. | -Victim has to<br>be the spouse<br>who<br>accompanied<br>or followed to<br>join a principal<br>alien admitted<br>holding an A<br>(ambassador),<br>E3(Australian<br>Specialty<br>Occupation<br>Worker),<br>G(foreign<br>Government or<br>International<br>Organization<br>Representative,<br>or H(Alien<br>Specialty<br>Occupation<br>Worker) visa.<br>-was admitted<br>as an non-<br>immigrant<br>under the visas<br>above.<br>- is maintaining<br>status as<br>nonimmigrant.<br>-applicant or<br>applicant's child<br>was battered or<br>subjected to<br>extreme cruelty<br>by the principal<br>alien spouse.<br>-Residing in the<br>U.S.<br>-Marriage was<br>entered in good<br>faith. |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Elder abuse victims abused by their over 21 year old adult U.S. Citizen abusive sons or daughters are also statutorily eligible to self-petition.

|                                                                                                                  | U-visa                                       | T-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Continued<br>Presence                                                                                           | VAWA self-petition <sup>4</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Battered spouse<br>waiver                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Special<br>Immigrant<br>Juvenile Status<br>(SIJS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Deferred Action<br>for Childhood<br>Arrivals (DACA)                                    | Section 106 :<br>A, G, E3, and<br>H visa<br>recipients                                                                                          |
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| Caps                                                                                                             | Cap of 10,000 for<br>each fiscal year.       | Cap of 5,000 visas<br>for each fiscal year.<br>USCIS has never<br>reached the cap and<br>is unlikely to reach it<br>in the upcoming<br>fiscal years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | No cap.                                                                                                         | No cap.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | No cap.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | No cap.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | None                                                                                   | Cap, if any,<br>relates to the<br>visa category.<br>There is no cap<br>on the number<br>of victims who<br>can request<br>work<br>authorization. |
| Inadmissibility<br>Waivers<br>Available So<br>That The Victin<br>Can Receive<br>Lawful<br>Permanent<br>Residency | of inadmissibility available if it is in the | There is an<br>exception to the<br>public charge<br>grounds of<br>inadmissibility. A<br>discretionary waiver<br>available for other<br>grounds of<br>inadmissibility if<br>inadmissibility is<br>incident to the<br>victimization. No<br>waiver is available if<br>inadmissibility is<br>because of Nazi<br>persecution,<br>genocide, torture or<br>extrajudicial killing;<br>security-related<br>grounds,<br>international child<br>abduction, or<br>renunciation of<br>citizenship to avoid<br>taxation. | Continued<br>presence does<br>not lead to lawful<br>permanent<br>residency so<br>waivers are not<br>applicable. | Waivers of<br>inadmissibility not<br>needed for VAWA self-<br>petitioning process.<br>However, the good<br>moral character self-<br>petitioning requirement<br>is interpreted to require<br>that the victim<br>demonstrate that a<br>waiver would be<br>available and the act is<br>connected to the<br>"abuse." For purposes<br>of lawful permanent<br>residency there are a<br>range of inadmissibility<br>waivers that are<br>available specifically for<br>VAWA self-petitioners.<br>Eligibility requirements<br>for each waiver vary<br>depending on the<br>grounds. | Battered spouse waiver<br>applicants have already<br>been deemed to be<br>admissible when they<br>were granted conditional<br>residency. However, as<br>with any lawful<br>permanent resident, any<br>acts triggering a ground<br>of inadmissibility or<br>deportability could result<br>in an applicant being<br>placed in removal<br>proceedings. | -public charge<br>-working without<br>authorization<br>-illegal entrants and<br>immigration<br>violators<br>-material<br>misrepresentation<br>of fact<br>-stowaways or<br>smugglers<br>-entering without<br>proper<br>documentation<br>-unlawful presence<br>-health related<br>grounds<br>-some crimes<br>-security related<br>grounds<br>-NO WAIVER for<br>aliens previously<br>removed, drug<br>trafficking crimes,<br>aliens unlawfully<br>present after<br>previous<br>immigration<br>violations, or having<br>departed to avoid<br>being drafted. | Does not lead to<br>lawful permanent<br>residency so<br>waivers are not<br>applicable. | Does not lead<br>to lawful<br>permanent<br>residency so<br>waivers are not<br>applicable                                                        |

|                     | U-visa                                                                                                                               | T-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Continued<br>Presence                                                                                                                                                     | VAWA self-petition <sup>4</sup>                                                                                                      | Battered spouse<br>waiver                                                                                                      | Special<br>Immigrant<br>Juvenile Status<br>(SIJS)                                                               | Deferred Action<br>for Childhood<br>Arrivals (DACA)                                                        | Section 106 :<br>A, G, E3, and<br>H visa<br>recipients |
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| Processing<br>Times | DHS states that it<br>takes 14 months, but<br>research shows that<br>it varies between 6-<br>18 months from<br>filing. <sup>15</sup> | DHS states that it<br>takes 4 months.<br>Research shows<br>that time to prima<br>facie (benefits): 201<br>days-829 days; Time<br>to work<br>authorization: 201<br>days to 820 days;<br>Time to approval<br>231-820 days; Time<br>to file for lawful<br>permanent<br>residency 3 years, 7<br>months to more than<br>5 years. <sup>16</sup> | Research shows<br>that time to<br>benefits access:<br>120 days; Time to<br>work<br>authorization: 90<br>days approx;<br>Time to approval<br>90 days approx. <sup>17</sup> | DHS states that it takes<br>14 months. Research<br>shows that it varies<br>between 6 months to 2<br>years from filing. <sup>18</sup> | DHS states that it varies<br>between 6-24 months<br>(depending on the<br>service center<br>processing the case). <sup>19</sup> | DHS states that it<br>takes 5 months.<br>Research shows<br>that it takes 180<br>days from filing. <sup>20</sup> | DHS states that it<br>takes 6 months. <sup>21</sup><br>Research shows<br>that it takes from 6-8<br>months. | DHS states it<br>takes 3<br>months. <sup>22</sup>      |

<sup>15</sup> NIWAP processing times available at: <u>http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/research-reports-and-data/research-US-VAIW/Timing-of-Access-to-Work-Authorization-6.4.12.pdf/view, *But see*</u>

https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/processingTimesDisplay.do?serviceCenter=990 & displaySCProcTimes=Service% 20 Center% 20 Processing% 20 Dates the service of th

<sup>16</sup> NIWAP processing times available at: <u>http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/immigration/vawa-t-and-u-procedures/DHS-and-IJ-Case-Processing-</u>

Times.pdf/view. But see https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/processingTimesDisplay.do?serviceCenter=990&displaySCProcTimes=Service%20Center%20Processing%20Dates

<sup>17</sup> NIWAP processing times available at: <u>http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/immigration/vawa-t-and-u-procedures/DHS-and-IJ-Case-Processing-Times.pdf/view</u>.

<sup>18</sup> NIWAP processing times available at: <u>http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/research-reports-and-data/research-US-VAIW/Timing-of-Access-to-Work-Authorization-6.4.12.pdf/view</u>. But see

https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/processingTimesDisplay.do?serviceCenter=990&displaySCProcTimes=Service%20Center%20Processing%20Dates

<sup>19</sup> https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/processingTimesDisplay.do?serviceCenter=990&displaySCProcTimes=Service%20Center%20Processing%20Dates <sup>20</sup> http://www.ilrc.org/files/2010\_sijs-chapter\_03-sijs\_overview.pdf. But see:

https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/processingTimesDisplay.do?serviceCenter=990&displaySCProcTimes=Service%20Center%20Processing%20Dates

<sup>21</sup> https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/processingTimesDisplay.do?serviceCenter=990&displaySCProcTimes=Service%20Center%20Processing%20Dates

<sup>22</sup> https://egov.uscis.gov/cris/processingTimesDisplay.do?serviceCenter=990&displaySCProcTimes=Service%20Center%20Processing%20Dates

|                                           | U-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | T-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Continued<br>Presence                                                                            | VAWA self-petition <sup>4</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Battered spouse<br>waiver                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Special<br>Immigrant<br>Juvenile Status<br>(SIJS)                     | Deferred Action<br>for Childhood<br>Arrivals (DACA) | Section 106 :<br>A, G, E3, and<br>H visa<br>recipients                                                                                                                                                        |
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| Renewal                                   | U-visa status may be<br>extended if the U-<br>visa holder is<br>certified by law<br>enforcement to be<br>required for an<br>investigation or<br>prosecution,<br>exceptional<br>circumstances, or<br>because a U-visa<br>holder was unable to<br>apply for lawful<br>permanent<br>residence due a<br>DHS delay in issuing<br>regulations.                                                                                                                          | T-visa status may be<br>extended if the T-<br>visa holder is<br>certified by law<br>enforcement to be<br>required for an<br>investigation or<br>prosecution,<br>exceptional<br>circumstances, or<br>because a T-visa<br>holder was unable to<br>apply for lawful<br>permanent<br>residence due a<br>DHS delay in issuing<br>regulations.                                                                                                                                                                             | Continued<br>presence may be<br>extended if it is<br>requested by<br>federal law<br>enforcement. | A VAWA self-petition<br>(Form I-360) approval<br>provides deferred action<br>that protects the victim<br>from deportation and<br>lasts for one year and<br>may be renewed until<br>the self-petitioner is<br>eligible to apply for<br>lawful permanent<br>residence.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | A battered spouse<br>waiver (Form I-751)<br>approval extends the<br>applicant's conditional<br>permanent residence for<br>one year. It may be<br>extended annually until<br>the battered spouse<br>waiver application is<br>adjudicated. | Can appeal<br>decision, but since<br>LPR status, no<br>need to renew. | Can renew every two years.                          | EAD is issued<br>for a period of<br>time equal to<br>the remainder<br>of the<br>applicant's<br>current period<br>of authorized<br>stay. USCIS<br><i>may</i> not<br>approve any<br>requests for<br>extensions. |
| Leads to Lawful<br>Permanent<br>Residence | A U-visa holder can<br>apply for lawful<br>permanent<br>residence if there is<br>no affirmative<br>evidence that the<br>victim unreasonably<br>refused to cooperate<br>in an investigation or<br>prosecution, the<br>applicant has<br>maintained<br>continuous presence<br>in the United States<br>for three years, and<br>there is justification<br>to grant permanent<br>residence based on<br>humanitarian<br>grounds, family<br>unity, or public<br>interest. | A T-visa holder can<br>apply for lawful<br>permanent<br>residence if the<br>applicant has<br>complied with<br>reasonable requests<br>in the investigation<br>or prosecution (or<br>was under 18 or<br>would suffer extreme<br>hardship), has<br>maintained<br>continuous presence<br>in the United States<br>for three years (or<br>qualifies to apply<br>earlier because the<br>investigation or<br>prosecution is<br>complete), has good<br>moral character, and<br>is admissible or<br>qualifies for a<br>waiver. | No.                                                                                              | Yes. If the abuser is a<br>U.S. Citizen, the self-<br>petitioner can<br>simultaneously file the<br>VAWA self-petition and<br>the application for lawful<br>permanent residency. If<br>the abuser is a lawful<br>permanent resident, the<br>self-petitioner will<br>receive an approved<br>self-petition, deferred<br>action and work<br>authorization, but must<br>wait for a family<br>preference visa to<br>become available. This<br>can take up to or more<br>than 7 years, but the<br>victim will eventually be<br>eligible for lawful<br>permanent residency. | Yes, the approval of the<br>battered spouse waiver<br>grants lawful permanent<br>residence.                                                                                                                                              | Yes. It leads<br>directly to lawful<br>permanent<br>residency.        | No.                                                 | No.                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

|                                                                                     | U-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | T-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Continued<br>Presence                                                                                  | VAWA self-petition <sup>4</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Battered spouse<br>waiver                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Special<br>Immigrant<br>Juvenile Status<br>(SIJS)                                                                                                               | Deferred Action<br>for Childhood<br>Arrivals (DACA)                                | Section 106 :<br>A, G, E3, and<br>H visa<br>recipients |
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| Public Benefits                                                                     | U-visa victims are<br>not qualified<br>immigrants eligible<br>to receive federal<br>public benefits or<br>federal means<br>tested pubic<br>benefits. In some<br>states U-visa<br>recipients are able to<br>receive some state<br>funded benefits<br>because they are<br>lawfully present.<br>However, U-Visa<br>applicants may be<br>eligible for some<br>benefits. <sup>23</sup> | Approval of a T-visa<br>makes the victim a<br>qualified immigrant<br>for the purpose of<br>benefits. Bona fide<br>determination grants<br>refugee benefits as<br>an HHS certified<br>victim of a severe<br>form of trafficking. <sup>24</sup> | Refugee benefits<br>as an HHS<br>certified victim of<br>a severe form of<br>trafficking. <sup>25</sup> | VAWA self-petitioners<br>who receive a prima<br>facie notice are qualified<br>immigrants eligible to<br>receive federal public<br>benefits. Self-petitioners<br>who entered the U.S.<br>after 8/22/96 must wait 5<br>years before they can<br>access federal means<br>tested public benefits<br>(e.g. TANF, Food<br>Stamps, SSI, Medicaid).<br>Self-petitioners subject<br>to the 5 year bar may be<br>able to receive state<br>funded benefits. <sup>26</sup> | Conditional residents<br>filing battered spouse<br>waivers are qualified<br>immigrants eligible to<br>receive federal public<br>benefits. Those who<br>entered the U.S. after<br>8/22/96 must wait 5<br>years before they can<br>access federal means<br>tested public benefits<br>(e.g. TANF, Food<br>Stamps, SSI, Medicaid).<br>Battered spouse waiver<br>applicants subject to the<br>5 year bar may be able<br>to receive state funded<br>benefits. <sup>27</sup> | Once obtain LPR<br>status, may be<br>eligible for Title IV-<br>E funds, federal<br>foster care, and<br>federal financial aid<br>to go to college. <sup>28</sup> | None , except for<br>those granted to<br>undocumented<br>immigrants. <sup>29</sup> | None                                                   |
| Certified by HHS<br>as a victim of a<br>severe form of<br>trafficking in<br>persons | No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes upon receipt<br>from USCIS of <i>bona</i><br><i>fide</i> application<br>determination.                                                                                                                                                    | Yes.                                                                                                   | No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | No.                                                                                                                                                             | No.                                                                                | No.                                                    |

<sup>23</sup> http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/U-Benefits-Eligibility-Process.pdf/view;

http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view

- <sup>24</sup> http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/Trafficking-Victims-Benefits-Eligibility-Process.pdf/view;
- http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/Childcare-Chart.pdf/view
- <sup>25</sup> http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/Trafficking-Victims-Benefits-Eligibility-Process.pdf/view;

http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view

<sup>26</sup> http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/VAWA-Benefits-Eligibility-Process.pdf/view;

http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/Medical-Assistance-State-Chart.pdf/view;

http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/Childcare-Chart.pdf/view

<sup>27</sup> http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/Childcare-Chart.pdf/view;

<sup>28</sup> http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/TANF-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additionalmaterials/public-benefits/access/Medical-Assistance-State-Chart.pdf/view; http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/Childcare-Chart.pdf/view

<sup>29</sup> http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/reference/additional-materials/public-benefits/access/Medical-Assistance-State-Chart.pdf/view

|                          | U-visa                                                                                                                                                                                                        | T-visa | Continued<br>Presence | VAWA self-petition <sup>4</sup>                                                                                                                                                                        | Battered spouse<br>waiver                                                                                                                                                                              | Special<br>Immigrant<br>Juvenile Status<br>(SIJS)                                                                                                                                                                                      | Deferred Action<br>for Childhood<br>Arrivals (DACA)                                                                                                                                                                           | Section 106 :<br>A, G, E3, and<br>H visa<br>recipients |
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| Can Advocate<br>Prepare? | Advocate should be<br>able to help if: (1)<br>client entered<br>illegally, or (2) has<br>overstayed a visa.<br>Consult with an<br>attorney if the client<br>falls under the red-<br>flags list. <sup>30</sup> | N/A    | N/A                   | Advocate should be able<br>to help if: (1) client<br>entered illegally, or (2)<br>has overstayed a visa.<br>Consult with an attorney<br>if the client falls under<br>the red-flags list. <sup>26</sup> | Advocate should be able<br>to help if: (1) client<br>entered illegally, or (2)<br>has overstayed a visa.<br>Consult with an attorney<br>if the client falls under<br>the red-flags list. <sup>26</sup> | Advocate should be<br>able to help if: (1)<br>client entered<br>illegally, or (2) has<br>overstayed a visa.<br>Consult with an<br>attorney if the client<br>falls under the red-<br>flags list. <sup>26</sup> BUT<br>see waiver above. | Advocate should be<br>able to help if: (1)<br>client entered<br>illegally, or (2) has<br>overstayed a visa.<br>Consult with an<br>attorney if the client<br>falls under the red-<br>flags list. <sup>26</sup> (link<br>below) | N/A. Victim has<br>already been<br>admitted.           |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> See Red Flags list at http://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/immigration/vawa-self-petition-and-cancellation/tools/VAWA-Red-Flags.pdf/view