

**HELPFUL DOCUMENTS FOR IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
(COPIES ACCEPTABLE)**

EVERYONE

VICTIM IDENTITY AND STATUS:

- Foreign passport
- Foreign birth certificate
- Any other identification document from any country
- All U.S. immigration documents

DERIVATIVE IDENTITY AND STATUS:

- Birth certificate
- Passport
- All U.S. immigration documents

VAWA

ABUSER STATUS:

- U.S. birth certificate, U.S. passport or U.S. naturalization certificate
- I-551 permanent resident card
- Abuser's "A" (alien registration) number, which appears on most immigration documents pertaining to the alien
- Any immigration documents for either spouse

LEGAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARTIES:

- Marriage certificate or certified marriage record (can be obtained from public records department if victim does not have)
- Marriage license application (can be obtained from public records department if victim does not have)

- Divorce certificates for any previous marriages of either spouse, and/or information about where such divorce decrees may be obtained (i.e., where was the divorce court)
- Spouse death certificate (must be within past 2 years)
- Divorce decree of self-petitioner from abusive spouse (must be within past 2 years)

GOOD FAITH MARRIAGE:

- Birth certificates of any/all children of the relationship
- Photos from wedding and life together (e.g. family photos, vacation or other event photos)
- Mementos relating to the marriage such as invitations, wedding cards
- Letters or cards from the abuser to the victim or vice versa, or to them by others as a couple
- Letters or cards sent to her family members by her spouse or them as a couple
- Insurance policies (e.g. health, life, car, home) listing both spouses
- Joint leases, deeds, or mortgages
- Joint income tax returns
- Joint bank account statements or other account documents with both names
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of people who knew the abuser and the applicant as a married couple
- Letter from her employer or health care provider stating that she changed her name or listed the abuser as a contact in emergencies
- Also see items listed below to show joint residence

RESIDENCE WITH ABUSER:

- Lease or rental agreement listing both parties
- Rent receipts listing both parties
- Letter from landlord stating that the parties rent(ed) an apartment together and live(d) there together, with dates and listing the address
- Joint deed or mortgage documents
- Household bills in both names (can be separate bills but more helpful if they are dated around the same time)

- Children's school or medical records
- Other mail to the parties from roughly the same time period at the same address
- Names, addresses and phone numbers of people who knew the couple lived together

ABUSE:

- Civil Protection from Abuse petitions
- Civil Protection from Abuse orders (orders containing findings of past abuse are preferable to consent orders without findings)
- Police reports
- Criminal court records
- Medical reports and records
- Affidavits of school officials, clergy, social workers, shelter workers or other witnesses to abuse (or people in whom victim confided)
- Photographs of injuries
- Domestic violence shelter letters attesting to the time she spent in the shelter and the incidents of abuse disclosed to shelter workers
- DV counselor letter confirming that applicant underwent treatment and on what dates, with details as to incidents discussed if possible
- Photos of damaged property if a batterer has damaged anything during a violent incident, such as ripped clothing, smashed sentimental objects, phone cords pulled out of wall

GOOD MORAL CHARACTER:

- FBI or PA state background check
- Letters of support from clergy, teachers, or community leaders

U VISA

VICTIM OF ENUMERATED CRIME:

- Police incident report
- Affidavit of probable cause

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- Docket number for criminal court case

SUBSTANTIAL PHYSICAL OR MENTAL ABUSE:

- Civil Protection from Abuse petitions
- Civil Protection from Abuse orders (orders containing findings of past abuse are preferable to consent orders without findings)
- Police reports esp. for crime underlying U visa
- Criminal court records and transcripts esp. for crime underlying U visa
- Medical reports and records esp. for crime underlying U visa
- Affidavits of school officials, clergy, social workers, shelter workers or other witnesses to abuse (or people in whom victim confided)
- Photographs of injuries esp. for crime underlying U visa
- Domestic violence shelter letters attesting to the time she spent in the shelter and the incidents of abuse disclosed to shelter workers esp. crime underlying U visa
- DV counselor letter confirming that applicant underwent treatment and on what dates, with details as to incidents discussed if possible esp. crime underlying U visa
- Photos of damaged property if a batterer has damaged anything during a violent incident, such as ripped clothing, smashed sentimental objects, phone cords pulled out of wall

HELPFULNESS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT:

- Police reports for crime underlying U visa
- Criminal court records and transcripts including subpoenas for crime underlying U visa
- Name and telephone number (or business card) of officer(s) in charge of investigation(s) or district attorney prosecuting case(s)