

FAQ: U Visas for Survivors of Crimes

What is a U Visa?

The U visa provides a pathway to citizenship for certain immigrants who survived a crime in the US. This visa allows the recipient to live and work in the US and apply for lawful permanent residence (a green card).

Do I qualify for a U Visa?

You may be eligible for a U visa if **ALL** of these apply to you.

- **You survived a qualifying crime while you were in the United States.** See the list of qualifying crimes below.
- **You reported the crime to the police.** You may be listed as a “victim” of the crime on the police report.
- **You cooperated with police, investigators, or government attorneys prosecuting the crime.** For example, you answered questions about the crime, provided information, and gave up-to-date contact information.
- **You were substantially harmed by the crime.** For example, you suffered a physical injury as a result of the crime; you experienced severe fear, depression, or anxiety; you were fired from your job; etc.

Benefits of a U Visa

- Possible pathway to work authorization, green card, and citizenship.
- Some family members can apply with you.
- You can apply even if you entered the US unlawfully.

Drawbacks of a U Visa

- It can take 5+ years to receive work authorization and 10+ years to receive a green card after applying.
- You may be required to talk or write about the crime a lot, which might be traumatic for some applicants.

Qualifying Crimes

If someone has committed or attempted any of these crimes against you, you might be eligible for a U visa.

- Domestic violence
- Physical abuse
- Psychological abuse
- Stalking
- Assault
- Torture
- Attempted murder
- Murder of a close family member
- Manslaughter
- Abduction
- Kidnapping
- False imprisonment
- Mugging
- Incest
- Sexual abuse
- Sexual assault or rape
- Sexual exploitation
- Female genital cutting
- Obstruction of justice
- Perjury
- Witness tampering
- Involuntary servitude
- Slavery
- Human trafficking
- Not Being paid for your labor

How do I apply for a U Visa?

