Instructions for Form I-918 Supplement B, U Nonimmigrant Status Certification

Instructions

Please read these instructions carefully to properly complete this form. If you need more space to complete an answer, use a separate sheet(s) of paper. Write your name and Alien Registration Number (A-Number), if any, at the top of each sheet of paper and indicate the part and number of the item to which the answer refers.

What Is the Purpose of This Form?

You should use Form I-918, Supplement B, to certify that an individual submitting a Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status, is a victim of certain qualifying criminal activity and is, has been, or is likely to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of that activity.

When Should I Use Form I-918, Supplement B?

If you, the certifying official, determine that this individual (better known as the petitioner) is, has been, or is likely to be helpful in your investigation or prosecution, you may complete this supplement form. The petitioner must then submit the supplement to USCIS with his or her petition for U nonimmigrant status.

NOTE: An agency's decision to provide a certification is entirely discretionary; the agency is under no legal obligation to complete a Form I-918, Supplement B, for any particular alien. However, without a completed Form I-918, Supplement B, the alien will be ineligible for U nonimmigrant status.

To be eligible for U nonimmigrant status, the alien must be a victim of qualifying criminal activity. The term “victim” generally means an alien who has suffered direct and proximate harm as a result of the commission of qualifying criminal activity.

The alien spouse, unmarried children under 21 years of age and, if the victim is under 21 years of age, parents and unmarried siblings under 18 years of age, will be considered victims of qualifying criminal activity where:

1. The direct victim is deceased due to murder or manslaughter, or
2. Where a violent qualifying criminal activity has caused the direct victim physical harm of a kind and degree that makes the direct victim incompetent or incapacitated, and, therefore, unable to provide information concerning the criminal activity or to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity.

An alien may be considered a victim of witness tampering, obstruction of justice, or perjury, including any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit one or more of those offenses if:

1. The victim has been directly and proximately harmed by the perpetrator of the witness tampering, obstruction of justice, or perjury; and
2. There are reasonable grounds to conclude that the perpetrator committed the witness tampering, obstruction of justice, or perjury offense, at least in principal part, as a means:
   A. To avoid or frustrate efforts to investigate, arrest, prosecute, or otherwise bring to justice the perpetrator for other criminal activity; or
   B. To further the perpetrator's abuse or exploitation of or undue control over the petitioner through manipulation of the legal system.

A person who is culpable for the qualifying criminal activity being investigated or prosecuted is excluded from being recognized as a victim.

A victim of qualifying criminal activity must provide evidence that he or she (or in the case of an alien under the age of 16 years or who is incapacitated or incompetent, the parent, guardian, or next friend of the alien) has been, is being, or is likely to be helpful to a certifying official in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity as listed in Part 3 of this form. Being “helpful” means assisting law enforcement authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity of which he or she is a victim.

General Instructions

Fill Out the Form I-918, Supplement B

1. Type or print legibly in black ink.
2. If extra space is needed to complete any item, attach a continuation sheet, indicate the item number, and date and sign each sheet.
3. Answer all questions fully and accurately. State that an item is not applicable with "N/A." If the answer is none, write "none."

This form is divided into Parts 1 through 6. The following information should help you fill out the form.

Part 1 - Victim Information

A. Family Name (Last Name) - Give victim's legal name.

B. Given Name (First name) - Give victim's full first name, do not use "nicknames." (Example: If victim's name is Albert, do not use Al.)

C. Other Names Used - Provide all the names the victim has used that you are aware of, including maiden name if applicable, married names, nicknames, etc.

D. Date of Birth - Use eight numbers to show his or her date of birth (example: May 1, 1979, should be written 05/01/1979).

E. Gender - Check the appropriate box.

Part 2 - Agency Information

A. Name of certifying agency - The certifying agency must be a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, prosecutor, or authority, or Federal or State judge, that has responsibility for the investigation or prosecution, conviction or sentencing of the qualifying criminal activity of which the petitioner was a victim.

This includes traditional law enforcement branches within the criminal justice system, and other agencies that have criminal investigative jurisdiction in their respective areas of expertise, such as the child protective services, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and Department of Labor.

B. Name of certifying official - A certifying official is:

1. The head of the certifying agency or any person in a supervisory role, who has been specifically designated by the head of the certifying agency to issue a U Nonimmigrant Status Certification on behalf of that agency; or

2. A Federal, state or local judge.

If the certification is not signed by the head of the certifying agency, please attach evidence of the agency head's written designation of the certifying official for this specific purpose.

C. Agency address - Give the agency's mailing address.

Part 3 - Criminal Acts

A. Check all of the crimes of which the petitioner is a victim that your agency is investigating, prosecuting, or sentencing - If the crime(s) of which the petitioner is a victim is not listed, please list the crime(s) and provide a written explanation regarding how it is similar to one of the listed crimes. Similar activity refers to criminal offenses in which the nature and elements of the offenses are substantially similar to the list of criminal activity found on the certification form itself.

B. Indicate whether the qualifying criminal activity violated the laws of the United States or occurred within the United States (including in Indian country and military installations) or the territories and possessions of the United States - Qualifying criminal activity of which the applicant is a victim had to violate U.S. law or occur within the United States.

Please indicate whether the qualifying criminal activity occurred within the United States (including in Indian country and military installations) or the territories and possessions of the United States.


2. Indian country refers to all land within the limits of any Indian reservation under the jurisdiction of the United States Government, notwithstanding the issuance of any patent, and including rights-of-way running through the reservation; all dependent Indian communities within the borders of the United States whether within the original or subsequently acquired territory thereof, and whether within or without the limits of a state; and all Indian allotments, the Indian titles to which have not been extinguished, including rights-of-way running through such allotments.

3. Military installation means any facility, base, camp, post, encampment, station, yard, center, port, aircraft, vehicle, or vessel under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense, including any leased facility, or any other location under military control.
4. Territories and possessions of the United States

If the qualifying criminal activity did not occur within the United States as discussed above, but was in violation of U.S. law, it must violate a Federal extraterritorial jurisdiction statute. There is no requirement that a prosecution actually occur. Please provide the statutory citation for the extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Part 4 - Helpfulness of the Victim

A. Indicate whether the victim possesses information about the crime(s). A petitioner must be in possession of information about the qualifying criminal activity of which he or she is a victim. A petitioner is considered to possess information concerning qualifying criminal activity of which he or she has knowledge of details concerning that criminal activity that would assist in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity. Victims with information about a crime of which they are not the victim will not be considered to possess information concerning qualifying criminal activities.

When the victim is under 16 years of age, incapacitated or incompetent, he or she is not required to personally possess information regarding the qualifying criminal activity. The parent, guardian, or "next friend" of the minor petitioner may provide that information. "Next friend" is a person who appears in a lawsuit to act for the benefit of an alien victim. The "next friend" is not a party to the legal proceeding and is not appointed as a guardian.

B. Provide an explanation of the victim's helpfulness to the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity. A victim must provide evidence to USCIS that he or she (or, in the case of an alien child under the age of 16 or who is incapacitated or incompetent, the parent, guardian, or next friend of the alien) has been, is being, or is likely to be helpful to a certifying law enforcement official in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity. Being “helpful” means assisting law enforcement authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity of which he or she is a victim. Alien victims who, after initiating cooperation, refuse to provide continuing assistance when needed will not meet the helpfulness requirement. There is an ongoing responsibility on the part of the victim to be helpful, assuming there is an ongoing need for the victim's assistance.

You, the certifying official, will make the initial determination as to the helpfulness of the petitioner. USCIS will give a properly executed Supplement B, U Nonimmigrant Status Certification significant weight, but it will not be considered conclusory evidence that the victim has met the eligibility requirements. USCIS will look at the totality of the circumstances surrounding the alien's involvement with your agency and all other information known to USCIS in determining whether the alien meets the elements of eligibility.

Part 5 - Family Members Implicated in Criminal Activity

List whether any of the victim's family members are believed to have been involved in the criminal activity of which he or she is a victim. An alien victim is prohibited from petitioning for derivative U nonimmigrant status on behalf of a qualifying family member who committed battery or extreme cruelty or trafficking against the alien victim which established his or her eligibility for U nonimmigrant status. Therefore, USCIS will not grant an immigration benefit to a qualifying family member who committed qualifying criminal activities in a family violence of trafficking context.

Part 6 - Certification

Please read the certification block carefully. NOTE: If the victim unreasonably refuses to assist in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity of which he or she is a victim, even after this form is submitted to USCIS, you must notify USCIS by sending a written statement to: USCIS - Vermont Service Center, 75 Lower Welden Street, St. Albans, VT 05479-0001. Please include the victim's name, date of birth, and A-number (if available) on all correspondence.