

# What Should I Do at Each Stage of my U Visa Application?

If You Have...

1

## Not Yet Applied

Begin work with your advocate to gather evidence for your case, like letters of support. Contact your advocate if there's any changes to your situation like a criminal case or an encounter with immigration officials.



### CAUTION:

Leaving the U.S., being arrested or convicted of a crime, or unreasonably refusing to cooperate with law enforcement on your case can hurt your eligibility at any stage of your application. Contact your advocate if these things happen, if you move, or plan to get married.

2

## Filed U Visa Application

Congress only gives out 10,000 U visas yearly and there's far more applicants than visas available, so this takes a long time—the only thing to do is wait and contact your advocate if there are any changes to your situation.



### CAUTION:

Leaving the U.S., being arrested or convicted of a crime, or unreasonably refusing to cooperate with law enforcement on your case may hurt your application. Contact your advocate if these things happen, if you move, or plan to get married. **You do not have formal protection from deportation,** however, ICE has a general policy against arresting or deporting most survivors of crime.

3

## Bona Fide Determination or Place on Waitlist

Obtain your work permit and social security card. Apply for a driver's license with an unexpired passport from your country of origin and ask about public benefits. Contact your advocate at least 8 months before your work permit expires to renew your status.



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Leaving the U.S., being arrested or convicted of a crime, or unreasonably refusing to cooperate with law enforcement may hurt your application. Please contact and work with your advocate to minimize risk, or if you move or plan to get married.

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## U Visa Status

Once you get your U visa, make sure to keep at least one document per month that shows you reside in the US (from at least 2 different sources) such as bank statements, power bills, pay stubs, etc. After 3 years with a U visa, but before your visa expires, seek counsel to see if you can apply for a green card. In rare situations, you might be able to renew your visa.



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Community Health Law Partnership Clinic

School of Law

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA