



Office of Communications

U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

USCIS Update

October 16, 2007

NEW RULE FOR NONIMMIGRANT VICTIMS OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY GOES INTO EFFECT TOMORROW

Public comment period remains open until Nov. 16

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) reminds its customers that a new [interim rule](#) that authorizes temporary immigration benefits to certain victims of crimes who help law enforcement will be effective October 17, 2007.

USCIS published the interim rule last month that establishes procedures for applicants seeking U nonimmigrant status. The “U” classification offers protection and temporary benefits to alien victims of certain crimes who assist government officials in investigating or prosecuting the criminal activity.

Eligibility for the U nonimmigrant classification is set aside for victims of qualifying criminal activity who suffered substantial mental or physical abuse because of the activity, have information regarding the activity, and are willing to assist government officials in the investigation of the crime. Additionally, the crime must have violated U.S. law or occurred in the United States (including its territories and possessions).

Individuals granted U nonimmigrant status may remain in the United States for up to four years and may be accompanied by eligible family members. A total of 10,000 U visas will be available each fiscal year to principal applicants (the cap does not apply to eligible family members).

Application procedures and detailed information on U nonimmigrant status is available on USCIS’ Web site at http://www.uscis.gov/files/pressrelease/U-visa_05Sept07.pdf.

The interim rule remains available for public comment at www.regulations.gov until November 16, 2007.

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