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Visas For Crime Victims – The U Visa

What is a U Visa?

The purpose of the U Visa is to help victims of a crime who are not legal residents of the United States to cooperate in the investigation or prosecution of the persons charged with criminal activity.

What are the benefits of the U Visa?

The person who obtains for the U Visa will be granted legal status and receive a work permit. After three years, you will be able to apply for legal permanent residency. Family members of the people that receive a U Visa will be able to apply for a Visa.

What are the eligibility factors for a U Visa?

- You must have suffered substantial or mental abuse as a result of the criminal violation*
- You must have information concerning the criminal activity
- You can help or have helped in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity
- You must have certification from a federal, State, or local law enforcement authority certifying your helpfulness in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity
- The criminal activity must have violated the laws of the United States and have occurred in the United States

*Crimes covered include: rape, torture, trafficking, incest, domestic violence, sexual assault, prostitution, sexual exploitation, being held hostage, involuntary servitude, kidnapping, false imprisonment, blackmail, extortion, obstruction of justice, perjury, conspiracy, or other similar crimes.

If you have any questions or would like to make an appointment regarding a U Visa please contact my office.