

Resource Guide: Combating Violence Against Women

DHS Council on Combating Violence
Against Women (CCVAW)



CCVAW Resource Guide

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Introduction

On March 21, 2013, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the creation of the DHS Council on Combating Violence Against Women (CCVAW) as part of the DHS mission to support public safety and security. Through this Council, DHS coordinates the Department's efforts to stop crimes against women and ensure the effective administration of laws aimed at preventing violence against women. The Council provides a unique forum that brings together experts to build consensus and identify best practices to combat violence against women, promote consistency on internal policies and improve the Department's ability to combat violence against women in the communities we serve and who are impacted by our work.

The Council has developed a comprehensive DHS Resource Guide on Combating Violence Against Women, which provides summaries and links to programs, initiatives, training, and services that can be leveraged by communities across the country to combat these types of crimes.

Assistance for Victims of Violence

DHS utilizes a victim-centered approach to investigation and prosecution as an essential tool in accomplishing our law enforcement mission. It is often difficult for victims of violence to come forward and work with law enforcement because of trauma they may have experienced. A victim-centered approach places equal value on the identification and stabilization of victims and the investigation and prosecution of crimes. Victims often need help to feel stable, safe and secure.

For foreign victims, immigration relief stabilizes a victim's status in the U.S., which enables the victim to feel a level of security and report the crime. Many foreign victims do not have legal status in the United States, which is a powerful deterrent to reporting crime and cooperating with law enforcement. Without legal status, victims may not be able to remain in the U.S. to assist with the investigation and prosecution of criminals while accessing victim assistance services.

Immigration Relief and Support for Victims

In 1994, Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to support and protect victims of domestic violence. In passing this landmark legislation, Congress recognized that immigrant victims of domestic violence may remain in abusive relationships and need specific protections because immigration status is often tied to their situation. In 2000, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) and subsequent reauthorizations provided further tools to encourage victims to report crimes and contribute to investigations and prosecutions regardless of immigration status. The TVPA and reauthorizations also support law enforcement efforts to investigate and prosecute crimes committed against immigrant victims, such as domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and other crimes. The VAWA and TVPA authorize DHS to provide multiple types of immigration relief described below. Continued Presence (CP), T and U visas, VAWA self-petitions, and battered spouse waivers all help to encourage victims to come forward and work with law enforcement.

Continued Presence (CP) Adjudications

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

CP is an important tool that allows non-U.S. citizen victims to remain in the United States for up to one year to receive needed victim services, to obtain legal employment, and to assist with any federal, state, local, tribal and territorial law enforcement investigation and prosecution of their alleged traffickers or batterers. CP may be renewed in one year increments.

CP is authorized by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Law Enforcement Parole Unit. A federal law enforcement agent must apply for CP on behalf of a non-U.S. citizen victim.

State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement officials who seek CP for victims of crime are encouraged to work with the local HSI office in their areas. In addition, Victim Assistance Specialists at local HSI offices can assist law enforcement officials in obtaining referrals to non-governmental victim services providers, who offer a variety of services to assist crime victims. Examples of such assistance can include: immigration legal assistance, crisis intervention, counseling, medical care, housing, job skills training, and case management.

Petitions for T Nonimmigrant Status (T Visas)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

The T visa provides temporary immigration status to victims of severe forms of human trafficking who have complied or are willing to comply with reasonable requests for assistance in the investigation and prosecution of the trafficking (unless they are under the age of 18 or have suffered severe trauma). This benefit allows the victim to remain in the United States for four years, with the ability to seek adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident (LPR) after three years. T nonimmigrants are eligible to receive employment authorization to work in the United States and to receive federal public benefits, providing them with stability and protection. T nonimmigrants can also sponsor certain family members for legal status.

Petitions for U Nonimmigrant Status (U Visas)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

The U visa provides temporary immigration status to victims of certain qualifying crimes, including human trafficking, rape, domestic violence, and other crimes affecting women and girls. Victims must show that they have suffered substantial physical or mental abuse as a result of such victimization and that they are being, have been, or are likely to be helpful to law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. This benefit allows the victim to remain in the United States for four years, with the ability to seek adjustment of status to a legal permanent resident (LPR) after three years. Victims are eligible to receive employment authorization with their U nonimmigrants status, providing them with stability and protection. U nonimmigrants can also petition for certain family members.

Protections Under VAWA

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

A battered spouse, child, or parent may file an immigrant visa self-petition under VAWA, independent of his or her abuser. VAWA allows certain spouses and children of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents and parents of U.S. citizens who have been victims of domestic violence to self-petition for lawful permanent resident status without the abuser's knowledge. This protection provides both safety and independence from the abuser.

Significant Public Benefit Parole

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Significant Public Benefit Parole (SPBP) is utilized to bring an individual, otherwise inadmissible to the United States, to serve as a witness, defendant, or cooperating source. SPBP is granted only for the minimum period of time required to accomplish the requested law enforcement purpose (e.g., if a trial is 3 months long, SPBP will be granted for 3 months). SPBP does not constitute a formal admission to the United States; it confers only temporary authorization to be present in the United States without having been admitted. Employment authorization may be granted. If necessary, and in extremely limited cases, SPBP may also be utilized to bring the individual's immediate family members into the United States for up to one year.

Special Protections for Children

Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Status

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

SIJ status is designed for noncitizen children in the United States who do not have lawful permanent residence and have been abused, neglected or abandoned. For a child to be eligible, a U.S. state juvenile court must make the child dependent on the court (or place the child under the legal custody of a state agency or other individual); find that the child cannot be reunified with one or both of his or her parents due to abuse, abandonment, neglect or a similar basis under state law; and find that it is not in the best interests of the child to be returned to his or her country of citizenship. SIJ status allows a child to immediately apply for lawful permanent residence.

Border Enforcement/Unaccompanied Children Screening

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) screens unaccompanied alien children (UAC) at land borders and ports of entry, regardless of country of origin. Through the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA). CBP continues to enhance protection efforts. The TVPRA requires all federal agencies to transfer these children to HHS within 72 hours of identification.

Victim Centered Investigations and Enforcement

Investigation of Human Trafficking and other Exploitation-Based Crimes

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

DHS utilizes a victim-centered approach when investigating cases involving human trafficking and other exploitation-based crimes. When investigating cases involving these crimes, investigators work in concert with ICE Victim Assistance Specialists to stabilize the victim and refer them to non-governmental victim service providers when necessary.

Victim Assistance Program

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

ICE's Victim Assistance Program connects the victim to community-based resources for the provision of appropriate medical and mental healthcare, legal assistance, case management, and other services. The ICE Victim Assistance Program currently has fulltime Victim Assistance Specialists in 26 of its offices across the U.S., as well as more than 250 collateral-duty victim assistance coordinators. In recognition of the unique challenges of interviewing trafficked minors and other child and special needs victims, ICE continues to expanding its Forensic Interviewing Program to include five full-time Forensic Interview Specialists. ICE Forensic Interview Specialists are available to conduct developmentally-appropriate, legally-defensible, victim- and culturally-sensitive forensic interviews for all ICE investigations, domestically and internationally.

Victims Flag in Immigration Data Systems

National Protection & Programs Directorate, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

In 2011, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and ICE implemented a "flag" for their database systems to alert USCIS, ICE, CBP and other authorized employees when an applicant is protected by VAWA confidentiality or has submitted a victim-based immigration petition. This helps safeguard information from being shared with the abuser. The National Protection and Programs Directorate's Office of Biometric Identity Program biometric system also implemented a flag to help identify individuals with the same protected status.

Forensic Services Division / National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

U.S. Secret Service

The U.S. Secret Service supports the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and local law enforcement with its expertise in forensic analysis, including crime scene investigation, handwriting analysis, document authentication, ink analysis, fingerprints and photography analysis, graphic design, video production, audio/image enhancement, speaker recognition services, specialized polygraph, and crime scene services.

Cyber Crimes Center

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

ICE HSI's Cyber Crimes Center (C3), is responsible for delivering the highest quality cyber technical and investigative services to ICE headquarters and field office programs in support of trans-border and infrastructure protection investigations. Through its Child Exploitation Investigations Unit, C3 combats the exploitation of children, child pornography, international trafficking of children for sexual purposes and child sex tourism by targeting individuals and organizations involved in these crimes. C3 also addresses the widespread use of computers and digital devices through its Computer Forensics Unit. These devices have greatly increased the volume of data that ICE HSI agents must examine during the course of an investigation. C3's Cyber Crimes Unit is responsible for managing the cyber - component of traditional immigration and customs investigative categories. C3 special agents conduct and coordinate national level investigations where the Internet is used to further criminal activities across multiple areas.

Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program

U.S. Coast Guard

The SAPR Program endeavors to eliminate sexual assault within the Coast Guard by providing education and training, response capability, victim support, reporting procedures and accountability and promoting a culture of prevention. Victims may select restricted and unrestricted reporting options, depending upon whether they desire confidential access to response services, or services and a full investigation of the incident, respectively. A SAPR Strategic Plan issued in May 2013 outlines Coast Guard goals and objectives to ensure the sensitive, coordinated, and effective management of all sexual assault cases.

Coast Guard Judge Advocate General's Office of Special Victims' Counsel (OSVC)

U.S. Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard's Office of Special Victims' Counsel (OSVC) provides legal assistance to Coast Guard victims of alleged sexual assaults and other sexual offenses. OSVC will care for Coast Guard personnel by providing appropriate legal support to victims of alleged sexual assaults. Establishment of the OSVC is expected to promote increased reporting of sexual assault by reducing barriers, fears, and anxieties associated with the military justice system and other legal process problems within the military that some victims of sexual assaults have reported. Further, the program will provide an additional resource to Coast Guard members to ensure that victims understand their rights in the legal process and, regardless of the outcome, feel respected and included. Coast Guard judge advocates serve as Special Victims' Counsel and receive specialized Coast Guard Victim Advocate training. Special Victim's Counsel also supplement the wide range of services and support to victims of sexual assault available from other sources already provided. The creation of the OSVC is an important milestone in the Coast Guard's effort to eradicate sexual assault from the service.

Victim Centered Policy and Legislation

Combating Sexual Violence Against Unaccompanied Children

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

CBP, ICE, DHS Policy and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are committed to enhancing operations regarding unaccompanied alien children who report sexual victimization while in federal custody. ICE HSI reviews information to identify leads of sex trafficking and violence and, whenever possible, to prosecute those criminally responsible.

Recommendations to Assist Victims of Violence

Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman

The Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman (CISOMB) becomes aware of systemic issues through individual complaints and requests for case assistance; information received from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and federal officials; interactions and meetings with applicants; petitions; employers; NGOs; and, immigration professionals across the country. CISOMB recommends policy changes to address systemic problems that individuals and employers face when seeking services from USCIS. On February 28, 2013, CISOMB published a recommendation entitled "Improving the Process for Removal of Conditions on Residence for [battered] Spouses and Children."

On January 29, 2009, CISOMB published a recommendation entitled “Improving the Process for Victims of Human Trafficking and Certain Criminal Activity: The T and U Visa.”

Prosecutorial Discretion Policy for Victims of Domestic Violence and Crime

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

In June 2011, ICE released a policy memo clarifying that ICE officers, special agents, and attorneys should exercise all appropriate prosecutorial discretion to minimize any effect that immigration enforcement may have on the willingness and ability of victims, witnesses, and plaintiffs to call police and pursue justice. This memorandum builds on prior guidance discussing the handling of cases involving T and U visas and the exercise of prosecutorial discretion.

Prison Rape Elimination Act

DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 includes a section that amends the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) to clarify its applicability to DHS detention facilities, and requires the issuance of a final rule adopting national standards for the detection, prevention, reduction, and punishment of sexual abuse and assault in immigration detention. DHS promulgated the *Standards To Prevent, Detect, and Respond to Sexual Abuse and Assault in Confinement Facilities*, 79 Fed. Reg. 45, 13100 (March 7, 2014) (codified at 6 C.F.R. pt. 115) to implement PREA. The DHS PREA regulation went into effect on May 6, 2014, with much of the implementation work completed by ICE and CBP by this date. Additional implementation efforts are ongoing and are being coordinated by the DHS PREA Working Group, led by the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL). In addition, CBP and ICE have various directives and guidance in place relevant to the provisions and standards associated with PREA and that are applicable to the Department’s operations. Additionally, in 2013, ICE issued a [Directive on Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Intervention](#), which established a zero-tolerance policy with respect to sexual abuse or assault of individuals in ICE custody. This policy delineates duties of agency employees for timely reporting, coordinating response and investigation, and effective monitoring of all incidents of sexual abuse or assault of individuals in ICE custody.

Public Awareness Initiatives

In addition to the CCVAW, DHS operates additional public awareness initiatives that support victims of violence and combat violence against women.

DHS Blue Campaign

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

The DHS Blue Campaign is the unified voice for Department’s efforts to combat human trafficking. Working in collaboration with law enforcement, government, non-governmental and private organizations, the Blue Campaign strives to protect the basic right of freedom and to bring those who exploit human lives to justice. The Blue Campaign operates a public awareness campaign – encompassing print, digital, and social media – coordinates outreach efforts, leverages partnerships,

and administers training to a variety of government and non-government entities regarding victim identification and assistance. Increased awareness and training will lead to more tips to law enforcement, which will result in more victims being identified.

Public Awareness Campaign for Children and their Families from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

In 2014, in response to a spike in migrants coming across the Southwest border, CBP launched a public awareness campaign aimed at adults and children from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. The campaign used multiple formats (print, radio, television, and more) to promote awareness of the dangers posed to children attempting to immigrate unlawfully to the United States, including human trafficking. The campaign went live in Central America in January 2013 and continued through March 2013. The campaign was coordinated across DHS Components, along with interagency partners, NGO community, and Central American embassy representatives, to ensure that the message resonated with the target population.

Partnering with DHS

DHS regularly engages with other government agencies and members of the public and private sectors in its efforts to combat violence against women. These partnerships foster the sharing of ideas and improve communication about DHS responsibilities, resources, and initiatives. Partnerships enable the sharing of resources, and increase DHS' ability to educate the public.

Council Stakeholder Engagements

DHS Council on Combating Violence Against Women

CCVAW meets on a regular basis with stakeholders, including federal partners, nongovernmental and community organizations and private sector representatives, to receive feedback on its efforts to combat violence against women. This feedback will promote continued engagement on these important issues and provide valuable input in shaping future initiatives.

Stakeholder Engagements on T Visas, U Visas, and VAWA

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS engages communities across the U.S. by hosting monthly national webinars, fulfilling incoming training requests and participating in numerous conferences. In addition, USCIS partners with ICE to provide relevant and comprehensive in-person training for federal, state, local, tribal and territorial law enforcement, as well as community based organizations and NGOs.

CISOMB Stakeholder Engagements

Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Ombudsman

CISOMB holds regular listening sessions to identify and discuss issues surrounding violence against women. These sessions enable CISOMB to identify areas for further research, hold discussions with other key agencies, and provide recommendations to USCIS.

CRCL Community Engagement

DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Public engagement with diverse American communities whose civil rights may be affected by DHS activities is a CRCL priority. CRCL leads or plays a significant role in hosting quarterly community engagement roundtables, town halls, and other engagement events with community leaders and federal, state, and local government officials in more than sixteen cities across the country. CRCL community engagements communicate reliable information about federal programs and policies, including avenues for redress and filing complaints; to obtain feedback about community concerns and on-the-ground impacts of DHS activities, in order to incorporate community ideas and issues relating to civil rights and civil liberties into the policy-making process; and, to deepen channels of communication between communities and federal officials in order to facilitate solution of problems.

Law Enforcement Outreach and Engagement

DHS Office for State and Local Law Enforcement

DHS Office for State and Local Law Enforcement (OSLLE) serves as the nonfederal law enforcement community's primary liaison to DHS. The Assistant Secretary for OSLLE also serves as a permanent co-chair for the CCVAW. OSLLE works with the Components to get information and resources on DHS training, programs, initiatives into the hands of state, local, rural, tribal and territorial law enforcement agencies. Through outreach efforts, OSLLE makes available information on regarding. OSLLE welcomes feedback from stakeholders in order to convey current issues, concerns and requirements as they relate to combating violence against women.

Blue Campaign Stakeholder Engagements

DHS Blue Campaign

The Blue Campaign meets with and engages its governmental and nongovernmental partners, community and faith-based organizations, and international and private sector partners to seek input on its anti-trafficking programs and to help shape future initiatives. Semi-annual stakeholder meetings facilitate targeted outreach efforts, including engagement with emergency management and medical professionals.

DHS Resources

Resource Guides

DHS U Visa Resource Guide

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

The DHS U Visa Resource Guide for Federal, State, Local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies is available in print and electronically. The guide educates state and local law enforcement about tools available to support investigations and prosecutions involving immigrant victims of crimes. The U Visa Resource Guide is available at <http://www.dhs.gov/u-visa-law-enforcement-certification-resource-guide>.

Blue Campaign Resource Guide

DHS Blue Campaign

The Blue Campaign produces a variety of resources to support DHS's efforts to combat human

trafficking including posters, awareness videos, trainings, fact cards for law enforcement, shoe cards and tear cards for potential victims of human trafficking and other vulnerable populations, informational pamphlets and indicator cards. These resources are available at <http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/share-resources>.

DHS State and Local Law Enforcement Resource Catalog

DHS Office for State and Local Law Enforcement

The DHS State and Local Law Enforcement Resource Catalog is a one-stop shop for non-Federal law enforcement. This document summarizes and provides links to training, publications, newsletters, programs, and services available from across the Department for our law enforcement partners. The Catalog is available at <http://www.dhs.gov/publication/dhs-state-and-local-law-enforcement-resource-catalog>.

Case Assistance and Reporting Mechanisms

Crime Tip Line

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

The ICE HSI Tip Line accepts reporters from law enforcement and the public alike on suspected cases of human trafficking, child exploitation, and more than 400 other federal crimes. The Tip Line is a operational 24/7 with a language capability supporting more than 300 languages and dialects. The ICE HIS Tip Line accepts toll free calls from anywhere in the U.S. and Canada, and non-toll-free calls from anywhere in the world. Tips can also be submitted to the ICE Tip Line by calling 1-866-DHS2ICE. ICE also operates a toll-free hotline to better address concerns from the public, including prosecutorial discretion requests, questions about immigration court cases and detention concerns: 1-855-448-6903.

Community and Detention Hotline

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

In carrying out their key homeland security duties, ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) is committed to ensuring the public is fully informed of the ICE's immigration enforcement efforts. In support of the agency's mission, ERO is committed to transparency, collaboration and resolving concerns with community stakeholders. These stakeholders include the public, non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, academic institutions, attorneys, and advocacy groups. Individuals may contact ERO by calling the ICE Community and Detainee Helpline at 1-888-351-4024 during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern, Monday through Friday.

Complaints Work

DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

CRCL investigates complaints from the public alleging violations of the confidentiality provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1367, as well as allegations of civil rights violations, including those related to DHS immigration relief for trafficking. Following an investigation, CRCL may make recommendations, such as new or updated training and/or policy revisions. Additionally, CRCL works proactively and on a broader level with the components on the creation of new policy and DHS directives unrelated to specific complaints. For more information on how to file a complaint with DHS and CRCL please see http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/dhs-complaint-avenues-guide_10-03-12_0.pdf.

Case Resolution

Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman

CISOMB handles cases for individuals who are encountering difficulty with USCIS processing of their immigration benefits applications. For cases involving trafficking, domestic violence, other violent crimes, and other vulnerable populations like children, asylees, and refugees, CISOMB has designated an expert in these areas as the point of contact to liaise with USCIS and ensure the cases are resolved. In addition, CISOMB has implemented special procedures to safeguard these cases and ensure that confidentiality is maintained. Please email CISombudsman.PublicAffairs@hq.dhs.gov for additional information or visit www.dhs.gov/cisombudsman.

DHS Training for State, Local and Tribal Law Enforcement

Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, and Immigration Protections Trainings for state, local, tribal and territorial law enforcement

Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

Since 2007, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) has delivered workshops on various domestic violence, human trafficking, and protections for immigrant victims, through web-based trainings, training videos, in-person training seminars, and as part of its State and Local Law Enforcement Training Symposiums. Visit www.fletc.gov for more information about how to schedule training on these topics.

DHS Contact Information

For additional, specific information on DHS' efforts to combat violence against women, contact individual Components and program offices.

DHS Headquarters

DHS Blue Campaign

www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign

If you have questions about the Blue Campaign, email: BlueCampaign@hq.dhs.gov or "like us" on Facebook: www.facebook.com/bluecampaign.

Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman

www.dhs.gov/cisombudsman

To refer immigration petitioners who are experiencing problems that have not been able to be resolved through DHS customer assistance avenues:

Toll Free: (855) 882-8100

Phone: (202) 357-8100

Email: cisombudsman@hq.dhs.gov **Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**

www.dhs.gov/crcl

To refer individuals who want to file a complaint concerning abuses of civil rights, civil liberties, and profiling on the basis of race, ethnicity, or religion, by employees, officials, or activities of the Department of Homeland Security:

<http://www.dhs.gov/file-civil-rights-complaint>, or by mail, or phone:

Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Building 410, Mail Stop #0190

Washington, D.C. 20528

Phone: (202) 401-1474

Toll Free: (866) 644-8360
TTY: (202) 401-0470
Toll Free TTY: (866) 644-8361
Fax: (202) 401-4708
E-mail: crcl@hq.dhs.gov

Office for State and Local Law Enforcement

<https://www.dhs.gov/office-state-and-local-law-enforcement>

For information about DHS coordination with federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement, please contact the DHS Headquarters Office for State and Local Law Enforcement by phone: (202) 282-9545 or email: oslle@hq.dhs.gov

Office of Health Affairs

For information on webinars, publications and resources for the first responder/ EMS community, please contact:

HealthAffairs@hq.dhs.gov

U.S. Secret Service

<http://www.secretservice.gov/>

For information about the work of the U.S. Secret Service, you can also contact (202)406-5708.

DHS Components

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

www.uscis.gov

To request VAWA, U or T visa training for your agency: T-U-VAWATraining@dhs.gov

To ask specific policy questions about T and U visa certifications, call USCIS at (202) 272-1470.

Petitioners and their representatives may submit an inquiry regarding a specific case by emailing:

hotlinefollowup19181914.vsc@dhs.gov

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

www.cbp.gov

For specific questions on public awareness campaigns such as the Blue Lightning Initiative, contact the CBP Office of Public Affairs at CBPPUBLICAFFAIRS@cbp.dhs.gov.

Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

www.fletc.gov

For information pertaining to training for federal, state, local, rural, tribal, territorial and international law enforcement agencies, contact: (912) 267-2100

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

www.ice.gov

If an individual is aware of a victim or witness against whom a detainer has been lodged, who has been detained, who has been placed in removal proceedings for an immigration violation, or who has been ordered removed, the individual should promptly contact their local ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) office or the local ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA) to make ICE aware of the situation. To contact your local ICE ERO office, please see the list of contact information: <http://www.ice.gov/contact/ero/>. To contact your local ICE OPLA office, please see the list of contact information: <http://www.ice.gov/contact/opla/>. Specifically with regard to a lodged detainer, the law enforcement official should notify the ICE Law Enforcement Support Center: www.ice.gov/contact/lesc/, or by phone: (802) 872-6050, or email: ice.osltc@dhs.gov.