

Okanogan County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

HB 1022: The Safety and Access for Immigrant Victims Act

Policy and Procedure

U-VISA and T-VISA- I-918, Petition for Non immigrant Status Certification

A U-VISA or T-VISA are temporary 4-year visas. Both the U-VISA and T-VISA are temporary, and expire. Immigrants that are victims of crime are eligible to apply for a U-VISA or T-VISA if they or their family members have been helpful to law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of qualifying crimes.

Per RCW 7.98.020 for Crime Victim Certification, *"a certifying agency shall: (a) Make a determination on United States citizenship and immigration services form I-918 supplement B or relevant successor certification form, whether the victim was a victim of criminal activity and has been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful to the detection or investigation or prosecution of that criminal activity."*

Completed I-918 applications should include evidence, such as police reports, medical records, criminal histories, and other information regarding the applicant and the applicant's cooperation with law enforcement.

Requests for certification should be mailed to:

Albert Lin
Okanogan County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
PO Box 1130
Okanogan, WA 98840

Requests should be forwarded to Stacie Nicholson, Victim Witness Advocate, for research and processing. The request will then be forwarded to the certifying official, Prosecuting Attorney Albert Lin, for review and final decision on eligibility for certification. The Okanogan County Sheriff's Office forwards all U and T VISA Certification applications to the Okanogan County Prosecutor's Office, and the Prosecuting Attorney serves as the certifying official for both agencies.

Per RCW 7.98.020 *"a certifying agency shall process the certification within ninety days of request, unless the victim is in federal immigration removal proceedings, in which case the certifying agency shall execute the certification no later than fourteen days after the request is received by the agency."*

For more information and forms required, please visit <http://www.uscis.gov/i-918> or <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/crime-victims-public-safety/office-of-crime-victims-advocacy/safety-and-access-for-immigrant-victims/>.

For questions regarding the certification process, please call the Prosecuting Attorney at (509) 422-7280.