



FORT SILL LEGAL ASSISTANCE



GREEN CARD SELF-APPLICATION FOR ABUSE VICTIMS

How Can I Obtain a Green Card as a victim of abuse?

Under the federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), as an abuse victim, you may be eligible to become a lawful permanent resident (Green Card holder) by **self-petitioning** (without a sponsor) the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) by filing Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant. You can find this form at <https://www.uscis.gov/i-360>.

Victims of battery or extreme cruelty are eligible if the offense was committed by:

- A U.S. citizen spouse or former spouse;
- A U.S. citizen parent;
- A U.S. citizen son or daughter;
- A lawful permanent resident (LPR) spouse or former spouse; or
- An LPR parent.

How Do I Apply?

Please follow these three steps:

STEP ONE: Fill Out Form I-360

| For USCIS Use Only | | Fee Stamp | | Action Block | |
|---|------------------|---|---|--------------|--|
| Returned | | | | | |
| Resubmitted | | | | | |
| Relocated | Received Sent | | | | |
| Remarks: | | <input type="checkbox"/> Petitioner/Applicant Interviewed <input type="checkbox"/> Interviewed Beneficiary Interviewed <input type="checkbox"/> I-485 Filed Concurrently <input type="checkbox"/> Bene "A" File Reviewed | Classification | | Priority Date |
| | | Consulate | | | |
| To be completed by an Attorney or Accredited Representative (if any). | | <input type="checkbox"/> Select this box if Form G-28 or G-281 is attached. | Attorney State Bar Number (if applicable) | | Attorney or Accredited Representative USCIS Online Account Number (if any) |

▶ START HERE - Type or print in black ink.

Part I. Information About Person or Organization Filing This Petition

NOTE: You must complete **Part I.** as the petitioner if you are filing this petition on behalf of another person. If you are a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petitioner or special immigrant juvenile, skip to **Part I., Item Number 7.**

1. Your Full Name

Family Name (Last Name)

Given Name (First Name)

Middle Name

Please go to <https://www.uscis.gov/i-360>, download the form and fill in your answers through either type or black ink. Please complete the entire form.

You can find instructions on how to fill out your I-360 Form at:

<https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/i-360instr.pdf>

Please keep in mind the following when filling out your application:

- 1. If you do not feel safe in receiving correspondence from USCIS regarding this petition, please provide an alternate mailing address in Part 1, Item Number 7. You may use a PO Box, the address of a friend, attorney, community-based organization that is helping you, or any other address where you can safely and punctually receive your mail.**
- 2. You are exempt from the normal filing fee; please make sure to check Box 1.K on the I-360 Form to waive the fee.**
- 3. You must file your self-petition within two years of the date of:**
 - Your U.S. citizen abuser's death
 - Loss of your abuser's U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident status due to domestic violence
 - Termination of your marriage with your abuser if there is a connection between the marriage's termination and battery or extreme cruelty
- 4. For self-petitioning spouses, they can remarry after USCIS approves your self-petition without affecting your eligibility to become a lawful permanent resident or create grounds for revocation of the approved self-petition.**

STEP TWO: Attach Evidence Required by Form I-360

Evidence Required:

1. Evidence of the abuser's U.S. citizenship or lawful permanent resident status;
2. Marriage and divorce decrees, birth certificates, or other evidence of your legal relationship to the abuser;
3. One or more documents showing that you and the abuser have resided together, such as employment records, utility receipts, school records, hospital or medical records, birth certificates of children, mortgages, rental records, insurance policies, or affidavits;
4. Evidence of the abuse, such as reports and affidavits from police, judges, court officials, medical personnel, school officials, clergy, social workers, and other social service agency personnel. If you have an order of protection or have taken other legal steps to end the abuse, you should submit copies of those court documents;
5. If you are 14 years of age or older, your affidavit of good moral character accompanied by a local police clearance, state-issued criminal background check, or similar report from each locality or state in the United States or abroad where you had resided for six or more months during the three-year period immediately before filing your self-petition; and
6. If you are a spouse, submit evidence showing you entered your marriage in good faith, such as proof that one spouse has been listed as the other's spouse on insurance policies, property leases, properly filed tax forms, or bank statements. You may also submit your affidavit or affidavits of others who have knowledge of your courtship, wedding ceremony, shared residence, and other life experiences, if available.

You may submit any relevant, credible evidence in place of the suggested evidence if you are a:

- VAWA self-petitioning spouse or child of a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident; or
- VAWA self-petitioning parent of a U.S. citizen son or daughter.

STEP THREE: File your Form I-360

Where do I file my Form I-360?

Please file your form by mail at the following address:

For U.S. Postal Service, express mail, and courier deliveries:

USCIS
Vermont Service Center
Attn: Humanitarian Unit
75 Lower Welden Street
St. Albans, VT 05479-0001

You may want to verify the above mailing address at <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/all-forms/direct-filing-addresses-for-form-i-360-immigrant-petition-for-amerasian-widower-or-special-immigrant>.

Will I Need to Pay a Filing Fee?

No, you are **exempt** from the normal filing fee; please make sure to **check Box 1.K** on the I-360 Form to waive the fee.

How Can I Get an Electronic Confirmation of my Application?

You may also choose to receive an email or text message when USCIS accepts your form. To do so, you must complete Form G-1145, E-Notification of Application/Petition Acceptance, and clip it to the front of the petition. You can find Form G-1145 at: <https://www.uscis.gov/g-1145>.

Additional Help Resources:

The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides information, crisis intervention, and referrals to local service providers, including legal assistance organizations, to victims of domestic violence, or anyone calling on their behalf at 1-800-799-7233. For TTY (deaf or hard of hearing), call: 1-800-787-3224.

- The Hotline services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, toll-free from anywhere in the United States, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands. The staff and volunteers speak both English and Spanish and have access to translators in 139 languages.

What if I need help with my application?

Current members of the military and their families, as well as veterans, may call the USCIS toll-free military helpline at 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645, TTY 800-877-8339) or by sending an email to militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov. Representatives can answer your

questions Monday through Friday from 0800 AM - 1600 PM CST, excluding federal holidays.

You can also find guidance on how to fill out your forms at <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-guidance/form-filing-tips> and <https://www.uscis.gov/forms/filing-guidance>.

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This Information Paper provides only basic information and is not intended to serve as a substitute for personal consultation with a Legal Assistance Attorney. To schedule an appointment with a Legal Assistance Attorney, please contact the Legal Assistance Office at (580) 442-5058. The Fort Sill Legal Assistance Office is located on the 4th Floor of Building 4700 (Welcome Center) at 4700 Mow-Way Road, Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503.