

WINNEBAGO COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



The U Visa Certification Process

The State's Attorney's Office is the agency responsible for the acceptance and review of U Visa certification requests in Winnebago County. A U Visa is an immigration benefit that can be sought by victims who cooperate with law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of a crime.

U Visas strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to detect, investigate and prosecute certain crimes while offering protection to victims. Specifically, law enforcement can use the U visa to:

- Create trust between law enforcement and immigrants.
- Undermine the sense among perpetrators that they may victimize undocumented immigrants with impunity.
- Encourage reporting and cooperation by a particular victim in a particular investigation or prosecution.
- Help a victim to recover from victimization.

A person may apply for a U Visa if they:

(a) have suffered mental or physical abuse as a result of crimes including domestic violence, abduction, extortion, false imprisonment, felonious assault, manslaughter, murder, sexual assault, and prostitution; and

(b) have been helpful, or are likely to be helpful, in the investigation or prosecution of a crime. (See USCIS, Form I-918, Supplement B.)

A person may apply for a U Visa even if the criminal activity occurred years prior or if the case is closed.

Requests for assistance with U-Visa Certification should be forwarded to:

Office of the Winnebago County State's Attorney
Attention: Rita Bravo
400 W. State Street, Suite 619, Rockford, IL 61101
or via email at rbravo@sao.wincoil.gov

