



Forms of Legal Relief for Immigrant Youth

Immigrant youth may qualify for different forms of legal relief in the United States, meaning they may obtain legal status and be allowed to remain in the United States long-term.



The two most common forms of legal relief that immigrant youth qualify for are:



ASYLUM

A protection offered to people who have a fear of returning to their home country, especially individuals who have been harmed or threatened with harm due to their race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.



SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE VISA (SIJS):

A protection available to children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected by one or both parents in their home country or in the United States.

Typically, the sponsor/caregiver must obtain legal guardianship of the youth to apply for SIJS.

Other forms of legal relief for immigrant youth include:



U VISA:

For individuals who have been victims of certain crimes in the United States.



T VISA

For individuals who have been victims of human trafficking in the United States.



FAMILY PETITIONS

For individuals who have an immediate family member who already has legal status in the United States.

Applying for any type of legal relief is a complicated process. It is very important for the family to consult with an attorney and obtain legal representation for the youth's immigration case.

This handout is for informational purposes only and not intended to serve as legal advice.