



INFORMATIONAL ADVISORY for Law Enforcement Agency Certifiers Regarding USCIS’s New Policy to Reject U Visa Certifications Containing Blank Spaces

This Advisory is intended to notify Law Enforcement Agencies (“LEAs”) of a recent policy shift by the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (“USCIS”) to reject any U Nonimmigrant Status Certification on Form I-918, Supplement B (“U visa certification”) containing any blank fields. This new policy was posted to USCIS’s [website](#) on June 30, 2020 without advance notice. **Under the new policy, LEAs must now provide a written response to all questions on the U visa certification – even if the response is “None,” “Unknown,” or “N/A” – or USCIS will reject the certification.**

LEAs’ compliance with this policy is critically important. As you may know, a victim of a qualifying crime who has cooperated with an LEA in the investigation or prosecution of that crime must submit a completed U visa certification signed by a designated LEA certifier in order for USCIS to consider the crime victim’s U visa petition. While the submission of the U visa certification is not dispositive of the outcome of the U visa petition, the absence of a properly completed U visa certification will preclude the crime victim from applying for or receiving a U visa. In addition, the timing of the submission is important given that a U visa certification is only valid for six months from the date the LEA certifier signed it. For these reasons, an eligible crime victim is extremely reliant on LEAs for their timely issuance of properly completed U visa certifications, which must now include the annotation of “N/A,” “None,” or “Unknown” in any non-applicable fields that may have previously remained blank.

To avoid USCIS’s rejection of U visa petitions based on allegedly deficient U visa certifications, LEA certifiers are urged to complete any blank fields with the words “N/A,” “None,” or “Unknown” in both new and previously-issued U visa certifications signed on and before June 30, 2020, as illustrated below:

▶ **START HERE - Type or print in black or blue ink.**

Part 1. Victim Information	
1. Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (if any)	A- <u>N/A</u>
2.a. Family Name (Last Name)	<u>Smith</u>
2.b. Given Name (First Name)	<u>John</u>
2.c. Middle Name	<u>N/A</u>
Other Names Used (Include maiden names, nicknames, and aliases, if applicable.)	
If you need extra space to provide additional names, use the space provided in Part 7. Additional Information.	
3.a. Family Name (Last Name)	<u>N/A</u>
3.b. Given Name (First Name)	<u>N/A</u>
3.c. Middle Name	<u>N/A</u>
4. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	<u>01/01/1990</u>

Name of Head of Certifying Agency	
4.a. Family Name (Last Name)	<u>Doe</u>
4.h. Given Name (First Name)	<u>Jane</u>
4.c. Middle Name	<u>N/A</u>
Agency Address	
5.a. Street Number and Name	<u>123 Main Street</u>
5.b. <input type="checkbox"/> Apt. <input type="checkbox"/> Ste. <input type="checkbox"/> Flr.	<u>N/A</u>
5.c. City or Town	<u>New York</u>
5.d. State	<u>NY</u>
5.f. ZIP Code	<u>10006</u>
5.g. Province	<u>N/A</u>
5.h. Postal Code	<u>N/A</u>
5.i. Country	<u>N/A</u>

As an alternative, LEAs may also consider working with local immigration attorneys and/or legal services organizations to devise a mechanism by which the LEA provides express consent to the U visa petitioner and/or his or her attorney to complete the blank fields in a previously-issued U visa certification.

LEAs’ compliance with this policy not only will help ensure that an eligible crime victim is able to apply for and receive a U visa, but will also avoid further burden on LEA resources in receiving multiple requests for updated or corrected U visa certifications in line with USCIS’s new policy.