

Have You Been  
a Victim of  
Trafficking?

# Have You Been a Victim of Trafficking? You May Qualify for a T Visa

## What is a T Visa?

- The T Visa gives protection to people who have been victims of "severe forms of trafficking in persons." There are many ways that a person can become a victim of human trafficking.
  - Trafficking is when someone is forced, threatened, coerced, or tricked into forced labor or sexual exploitation. Some examples of forced labor are forced construction, agriculture, factory work, or domestic servitude. Some examples of sexual exploitation are forced prostitution or forcing someone to perform sexual acts against their will in exchange for anything of value (like money, food, or shelter). Minor victims of sex trafficking need not show force, fraud, or coercion in order to qualify for a T Visa.
  - Sometimes, victims of trafficking:
    - are told that they must stay in their situation to pay off a debt;
    - are isolated and cannot leave their situation;
    - have their identification and money taken away to prevent escape; or
    - are threatened with violence if they do not do as they are told.
  - If you have any doubts about whether your particular situation might be considered human trafficking, we recommend that you speak with an attorney.

## Benefits of the T Visa

- People who are approved for a T Visa
  - May live in the U.S.
  - Will receive a work permit.
  - May apply for a green card after three years.
- Certain family members may be included on the T Visa application.

## Do You Qualify for a T Visa?

- You may qualify for a T Visa if
  - You were trafficked into or within the U.S.,
  - You have helped or will agree to help with a reasonable request by law enforcement authorities to investigate or prosecute your trafficker (this is only required for adults), and
  - You would suffer unusual extreme harm if you were deported from the U.S.

- You do not qualify for a T Visa if you have committed an act of a severe form of trafficking in persons.

## What Should You Do Next?

1. If you are unsure whether you qualify for a T Visa, or need help getting out of a trafficking situation, please call 1-888-373-7888. This is a toll-free, confidential hotline that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They can speak with callers in a wide variety of languages.
  - You can also call the Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force at 1-888-428-7581. They can protect you, can speak with callers in multiple languages, and will work to prosecute traffickers.
2. If you think you qualify for a T visa, speak with an immigration lawyer about getting help or filing for a T Visa on your own.
3. To report trafficking crimes, call the toll-free hotline at 1-888-428-7581.
4. Begin gathering evidence to show that you are a victim of a "severe form of trafficking in persons." Put together information about your case, such as:
  - Police reports, newspaper articles, medical records, school records, and photographs of injuries.
  - Your written statement about what happened.
  - Written statements from relatives, friends, shelter workers, counselors, social workers, or clergy who know what happened to you.
5. Get a written certification, known as "Supplement B," from a law enforcement official saying you have helped in the investigation or prosecution of the trafficking crime.

*This information sheet was prepared by the EOIR Office of Legal Access Programs—updated January 2016*

This information is not intended, nor should it be construed in any way, as legal advice. The information does not extend or limit the jurisdiction of the Immigration Courts as established by law and regulation. Nothing in this packet shall limit the discretion of Immigration Judges to act in accordance with law and regulation.