

Victim Assistance

318.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that crime victims and witnesses receive appropriate assistance and support, that they are provided with applicable information from the Department and are aware of private resources available to them, and that the department meets all related legal mandates.

318.2 POLICY

The Fargo Police Department is committed to providing guidance and assistance to the victims and witnesses of crime. The members of the Fargo Police Department shall show compassion and understanding for victims and witnesses, and shall make reasonable efforts to provide the support and information identified in this policy.

318.3 DEFINITIONS

Crime - Includes all felony offenses; class A misdemeanors, excluding violations of section 6-08-16.1 for no-account checks; all violations of chapters 12.1-17 (Assaults) and 12.1-20 (Sex Offenses), including all corresponding violations of municipal ordinances; and any of the offenses that may result in adjudication of delinquency.

Victim - A natural person who has suffered direct or threatened physical, financial, or psychological harm as a result of the commission or attempted commission of a crime, delinquent act, or against whom the crime or delinquent act is committed. The term victim includes family members of a minor, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased person. The term victim does not include the accused or a person whom the court finds would not act in the best interests of a deceased, incompetent, minor, or incapacitated victim. Victim also includes the surviving next of kin in cases of suicide or overdose, as well as fatal crashes.

Witness - A person who has been or is expected to be summoned to testify for the prosecution whether or not any action or proceeding has yet commenced.

318.4 VICTIM SERVICES SPECIALIST

The Victim Services Specialist (VSS) is responsible to provide information and referrals that will assist victims of criminal acts with their physical and emotional recovery, as well supports and aid victims as they interact with the criminal justice system. The VSS provides these services under the supervision of a Criminal Investigations Division (CID) unit commander assigned by the division commander.

The VSS may also liaison with the Cass County Victim Witness Coordinator and community partners as appropriate.

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318.4.1 NONIMMIGRANT VISAS

According to Homeland Security, the lack of immigration status in the U.S. may be one of the many reasons for some victims choosing not to come forward to work with law enforcement. A request for a nonimmigrant U visa or T visa application, or for continued presence in the United States that is received by the Department should be forwarded to the CID commander for review and recommendation to the Chief of Police. The case agent shall make notifications to the victim regarding application status as required by N.D.C.C. § 12.1-41-18.

In order to qualify for the U and T visa, the victim must prove to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) that he or she cooperated with law enforcement, except if the victim is under the age of 18 or has suffered trauma. One of the primary ways a nonimmigrant victim may demonstrate cooperation with law enforcement is by submitting a signed statement from law enforcement as part of the application. In the U visa context, this statement is a required part of the petition and is known as the USCIS Form I-918, Supplement B, U Nonimmigrant Status Certification. In the T visa context, this statement is known as the USCIS Form I-914, Supplement B, Declaration of Law Enforcement Officer for Victim in Trafficking of Persons.

[See attachment: i-914supb.pdf](#)

[See attachment: i-918supb.pdf](#)

318.4.2 QUALIFYING CRIMES

The following table is a list of the criminal activities which qualify a victim for the U visa.¹

Abduction	Hostage	Sexual Assault
Abusive Sexual Contact	Incest	Sexual Exploitation
Blackmail	Involuntary Servitude	Slave Trade
Domestic Violence	Kidnapping	Stalking
Extortion	Manslaughter	Torture
False Imprisonment	Murder	Trafficking
Felonious Assault	Obstruction of Justice	Witness Tampering
Female Genital Mutilation	peonage	Unlawful Criminal Restraint
Fraud in Foreign Labor Contracting	Perjury	Related Criminal Activities ²
Prostitution	Rape	

¹ These are not specific crimes or citations to a criminal code; various federal, state, and local statutes could fall into these general categories of crime. Except "Fraud in Foreign Contracting," which is a federal offense defined in 18 USC 1351.

² Includes attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit any of the above and other related crimes, as well as any similar activity where the elements of the crime are substantially similar.

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318.4.3 VICTIM SERVICE SPECIALIST DUTIES

The Victim Services Specialist (VSS) shall carry out the following responsibilities:

- (a) Initiate contact with victims of violent crimes; advise crime victims of their rights and assist them in navigating through the criminal justice system.
- (b) Review department crime reports; contact victims of crime in which a person has been arrested to ascertain what assistance may be provided by the Department; conduct immediate needs assessment and provide information and referrals to other agencies and community services.
- (c) Provide ongoing emotional support and information to victims as the case moves through the criminal justice system and update victims regarding the ongoing status of criminal proceedings until it is sent to a prosecutor's office.
- (d) Confer with law enforcement officials on the status of cases; and provide support to victims and their families during interviews with law enforcement.
- (e) Coordinate with the State Attorney's Office to transfer advocacy responsibilities from local processing during the preliminary investigative stage to County processing during the post investigative stage.
- (f) Initiate and maintain case logs, document case activities, and maintain files. This includes generating a monthly activity report.
- (g) Perform routine administrative duties, including preparing mailings and correspondence; file all appropriate forms and reports.
- (h) Represent the Police Department at public education classes and meetings.
- (i) Perform related duties as required.
- (j) The VSS shall maintain active memberships in organizations specifically focused on providing assistance and aid to victims as may be appropriate in the furtherance of the Department's mission.
- (k) Information pertaining to investigations shall not be discussed or revealed to anyone other than appropriate department personnel or the prosecutor's office.

The assigned CID unit commander shall determine the types of criminal investigations which are assigned to the VSS based on workload, crime severity, and other significant factors.

The Professional Standards Division commander, or designee shall develop procedures to ensure that the Department complies with the rights of crime victims as established by N.D. Const. art. 1, § 25, including:

- (a) Officers/detectives shall provide each victim a Marsy's card to inform the victim in writing of his/her rights and that he/she may seek the advice of an attorney with respect to those rights. This information shall also be in a format available to the public.
- (b) If known and requested, officers/detectives shall notify the victim of the place and time of an offender's incarceration.

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- (c) The Records Unit shall notify the victim as soon as practicable when a request is made for any confidential or privileged information about the victim, or any information that could be used to locate or harass the victim, or the victim's family.

318.5 CRIME VICTIMS

Officers shall provide crime victims with a Marsy's card. Officer should also provide crime victims with the more common victim information handouts such as a Rape and Abuse card, FirstLink card, and ND SAVIN card.

Officers should never guarantee a victim's safety from future harm, but may make practical safety suggestions to victims expressing fear of future harm or retaliation. Officers should never guarantee a person qualifies as a victim for purpose of compensation or restitution, but may direct him/her to the proper written department material or available victim resources.

318.6 VICTIM INFORMATION AND SERVICES

The Criminal Investigation Division commander or designee, shall ensure that victim and witness information to include applicable handouts and forms are available and current. These shall include, as appropriate (N.D.C.C. § 12.1-34-02):

- (a) All available public or private programs that provide support, treatment, assistance programs, counseling, victim assistance hotlines, elderly victim services, and social service agencies.
- (b) Shelters and community resources for victims including domestic violence and sexual assault victims such as, but not limited to, the YWCA Shelter and Rape and Abuse information.
- (c) Assurance that sexual assault victims will not incur out-of-pocket expenses for forensic medical exams, and information about evidence collection, storage, and preservation in sexual assault cases (334 USC § 10449; 34 USC § 20109, N.D.C.C. § 12.1-34-07).
- (d) An advisement that a person who was arrested may be released on bond or some other form of release, and that the victim should not rely upon an arrest as a guarantee of safety.
- (e) A clear explanation of relevant court orders and how they can be obtained.
- (f) Information regarding available compensation for qualifying victims of crime under N.D.C.C. § 54-23.4-01 et seq. (N.D.C.C. § 12.1-34-02).
- (g) North Dakota Statewide Automated Victim Information and Notification (ND SAVIN) accessible through VINE® information (Victim Information and Notification Everyday), including the telephone number and whether this free service is available to allow victims to check on an offender's custody status and to register for automatic notification when a person is released from jail (N.D.C.C. § 12.1-34-02).
- (h) Notice regarding U visa and T visa application processes (N.D.C.C. § 12.1-41-18).
- (i) Resources available for victims of identity theft (N.D.C.C. § 51-31-04).
- (j) Notice of victim rights, Marsy's Card, prepared by the Department or North Dakota Attorney General (N.D.C.C. § 12.1-34-08).

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- (k) The investigating member's contact information, which includes the member's name and any applicable case or incident number.
- (l) The contact information for the Victim Services Specialist, if assigned to an investigation.
- (m) Information on how a victim of child sexual abuse who is over the age of 18 can, upon request, obtain a copy of the report related to his/her case.

318.7 WITNESSES

Officers should never guarantee a witness's safety from future harm or that his/her identity will always remain confidential. Officers may make practical safety suggestions to witnesses who express fear of future harm or retaliation.

Officers should investigate allegations of witness intimidation and take enforcement action when lawful and reasonable.

318.8 INVESTIGATIONS AND RECORDS UNIT

318.8.1 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS REGARDING CHILDREN

In order to protect a child victim or witness of a crime, except under N.D.C.C. Title 39 or equivalent ordinance, or the child victim of a fire, the name of the child and identifying biographical information may not appear on any public record. Instead, a Jane Doe/John Doe designation must appear or the child victim's information must be redacted from the document. Sealed confidential records containing the child's name and necessary biographical information must be kept in order to ensure that no defendant is charged twice (N.D.C.C. § 12.1-35-03).

318.8.2 INVESTIGATION STATUS

Victims and witnesses, upon request, must be informed of the status of the investigation, except where it is determined that disclosure of such information would unreasonably interfere with the investigation, until such time as the alleged offender is apprehended or the investigation is closed (N.D.C.C. § 12.1-34-02).

Upon the request of an alleged victim of a forced or coerced abortion, the investigating member shall notify the victim not less than 24 hours before initially contacting the suspect (N.D.C.C. § 12.1-41-21).

318.8.3 PRETRIAL RELEASE INVOLVING VIOLENCE

Victims and witnesses of crime must be afforded the following rights where applicable (N.C.C.C. § 12.1-34-02), if the victim invokes their Marsy's rights.

Victims and witnesses in any case involving a crime of violence, who are not registered with the VINE network, must be given prompt notice by the handling officer/detective of any hearing in which the arrested person's pretrial release status will be determined (N.D.C.C. § 12.1-34-02).

If the alleged offender in a crime of violence is scheduled to be released before an appearance in court, the Cass County Jail staff shall give prompt notice to the victim and witness as long as

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the arresting officer provides to the Cass County Jail staff with all of the pertinent victim/witness information. The Cass County Jail fulfills this obligation to notify by registering the victim with the VINE network (N.D.C.C § 12.1-34-02(b)). However, if the arresting/booking officer fails to provide the victim and/or witness information to the Cass County Jail staff, whereas the Jail staff can't register the victim/witness in the VINE network, the Department shall be responsible for any victim/witness notifications.

In the absence of the Cass County Jail or the Cass County Victim Witness Coordinator, the Department's VSS should assist the victim or witness with registering in the VINE system to make sure that future information is received in a timely manner. A victim or witness who objects to registration may not be required to register with the system.

318.9 REVISION DATE 10/15/2024

Attachments

i-914supb.pdf



Supplement B, Declaration of Law Enforcement Officer for Victim of Trafficking in Persons

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS
Form I-914
OMB No. 1615-0099
Expires 01/31/2019

START HERE - Type or print in blank ink. This form should be completed by Federal, State, or local law enforcement authorities for victims under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act, Public Law 106-386, as amended.

PART A. Victim Information

Family Name (Last Name) Given Name (First Name) Middle Name (if any)
[] [] []

Other Names Used (include maiden name/nickname)
[]

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) Gender
[] Male Female

A # (if known) Social Security # (if known)
[] []

Part B. Agency Information

Name of Certifying Agency
[]

Name of Certifying Official Title and Division/Office of Certifying Official
[] []

Agency Address - Street Number and Name Suite #
[] []

City State/Province Zip/Postal Code
[] [] []

Daytime Phone # (area code and/or extension) Fax # (with area code)
[] []

Agency Type
 Federal State Local

Case Status
 On-going Completed Local _____

Certifying Agency Category
 Judge Law Enforcement Prosecutor Other _____

Case Number FBI # or SID # (if applicable)
[] []

Part C. Statement of Claim

1. The applicant is or has been a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons. Specifically, he or she is a victim of: *(Check all that apply. Base your analysis on the practices to which the victim was subjected rather than on the specific violations charged, the counts on which convictions were obtained, or whether any prosecution resulted in convictions. Note that the definitions that control this analysis are not the elements of criminal offenses, but are those set forth at 8 CFR 214.11(a).)*

- Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act was induced by force, fraud, or coercion. Sex trafficking means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.
- Sex trafficking and the victim is under the age of 18.

For USCIS Use Only	
Returned	Receipt
Date	
Date	
Resubmitted	
Date	
Date	
Reloc Sent	
Date	
Date	
Reloc Rec'd	
Date	
Date	

Remarks

Part C. Statement of Claim (Continued)

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- Not applicable.
- Other, specify on attached additional sheets.

2. Please describe the victimization upon which the applicant's claim is based and identify the relationship between that victimization and the crime under investigation/prosecution. Attach the results of any name or database inquiry performed in the investigation of the case, as well as any relevant reports and findings. Include relevant dates, etc. Attach additional sheets, if necessary.

3. Has the applicant expressed any fear of retaliation or revenge if removed from the United States? If yes, explain. Attach additional sheets, if necessary.

4. Provide the date(s) on which the acts of trafficking occurred.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Date (mm/dd/yyyy)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

5. List the statutory citation(s) for the acts of trafficking being investigated or prosecuted, or that were investigated or prosecuted.

6. Provide the date on which the investigation or prosecution was initiated.

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

7. Provide the date on which the investigation or prosecution was completed (if any).

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Part D. Cooperation of Victim *(Attach additional sheets, if necessary)*

The applicant:

- Has complied with requests for assistance in the investigation/prosecution of the crime of trafficking. *(Explain below.)*
- Has failed to comply with requests to assist in the investigation/prosecution of the crime of trafficking. *(Explain below.)*
- Has not been requested to assist in the investigation/prosecution of any crime of trafficking.
- Has not yet attained the age of 18.
- Other, specify on attached additional sheets.

Part E. Family Members Implicated In Trafficking

- Yes No Are any of the applicant's family members believed to have been involved in his or her trafficking to the United States? If "Yes," list the relative(s) and describe the involvement. Attach additional sheets if necessary.

Full Name	Relationship	Involvement

Part F. Attestation

Based upon investigation of the facts, I certify, under penalty of perjury, that the above noted individual is or has been a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons as defined by the VTVPA. I certify that the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that I have made, and will make, no promises regarding the above victim's ability to obtain a visa from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, based upon this certification. I further certify that if the victim unreasonably refuses to assist in the investigation or prosecution of the acts of trafficking of which he/she is a victim, I will notify USCIS.

Signature of Law Enforcement Officer *(identified in Part B) (sign in ink)*

Date *(mm/dd/yyyy)*

Signature of Supervisor of Certifying Officer *(sign in ink)*

Date *(mm/dd/yyyy)*

Printed Name of Supervisor

i-918supb.pdf



Supplement B, U Nonimmigrant Status Certification

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

USCIS
Form I-918
OMB No. 1615-0104
Expires 02/28/2019

For USCIS Use Only	Remarks
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▶ **START HERE - Type or print in black or blue ink.**

Part 1. Victim Information

1. Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (if any)
▶ A-

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2.a. Family Name (Last Name)

2.b. Given Name (First Name)

2.c. Middle Name

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)

3.b. Given Name (First Name)

3.c. Middle Name

4. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)

5. Gender Male Female

Part 2. Agency Information

1. Name of Certifying Agency

Name of Certifying Official

2.a. Family Name (Last Name)

2.b. Given Name (First Name)

2.c. Middle Name

3. Title and Division/Office of Certifying Official

Name of Head of Certifying Agency

4.a. Family Name (Last Name)

4.b. Given Name (First Name)

4.c. Middle Name

Agency Address

5.a. Street Number and Name

5.b. Apt. Ste. Flr.

5.c. City or Town

5.d. State 5.f. ZIP Code

5.g. Province

5.h. Postal Code

5.i. Country

Other Agency Information

6. Agency Type
 Federal State Local

7. Case Status
 On-going Completed
 Other

8. Certifying Agency Category
 Judge Law Enforcement Prosecutor
 Other

9. Case Number

10. FBI Number or SID Number (if applicable)

Part 3. Criminal Acts

If you need extra space to complete this section, use the space provided in **Part 7. Additional Information**.

1. The petitioner is a victim of criminal activity involving a violation of one of the following Federal, state, or local criminal offenses (or any similar activity). (Select **all applicable** boxes)

- Abduction
- Abusive Sexual Contact
- Attempt to Commit Any of the Named Crimes
- Being Held Hostage
- Blackmail
- Conspiracy to Commit Any of the Named Crimes
- Domestic Violence
- Extortion
- False Imprisonment
- Felonious Assault
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Fraud in Foreign Labor Contracting
- Incest
- Involuntary Servitude
- Kidnapping
- Manslaughter
- Murder
- Obstruction of Justice
- Peonage
- Perjury
- Prostitution
- Rape
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Exploitation
- Slave Trade
- Solicitation to Commit Any of the Named Crimes
- Stalking
- Torture
- Trafficking
- Unlawful Criminal Restraint
- Witness Tampering

Provide the dates on which the criminal activity occurred.

- 2.a. Date (mm/dd/yyyy)
- 2.b. Date (mm/dd/yyyy)
- 2.c. Date (mm/dd/yyyy)
- 2.d. Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

3. List the statutory citations for the criminal activity being investigated or prosecuted, or that was investigated or prosecuted.

4.a. Did the criminal activity occur in the United States (including Indian country and military installations) or the territories or possessions of the United States?
 Yes No

4.b. If you answered "Yes," where did the criminal activity occur?

5.a. Did the criminal activity violate a Federal extraterritorial jurisdiction statute?
 Yes No

5.b. If you answered "Yes," provide the statutory citation providing the authority for extraterritorial jurisdiction.

6. Briefly describe the criminal activity being investigated and/or prosecuted and the involvement of the petitioner named in **Part 1**. Attach copies of all relevant reports and findings.

7. Provide a description of any known or documented injury to the victim. Attach copies of all relevant reports and findings.

Part 5. Family Members Culpable In Criminal Activity

1. Are any of the victim's family members culpable or believed to be culpable in the criminal activity of which the petitioner is a victim? Yes No

If you answered "Yes," list the family members and their criminal involvement. (If you need extra space to complete this section, use the space provided in **Part 7. Additional Information.**)

2.a. Family Name (Last Name)

2.b. Given Name (First Name)

2.c. Middle Name

2.d. Relationship

2.e. Involvement

3.a. Family Name (Last Name)

3.b. Given Name (First Name)

3.c. Middle Name

3.d. Relationship

3.e. Involvement

4.a. Family Name (Last Name)

4.b. Given Name (First Name)


4.c. Middle Name

4.d. Relationship

4.e. Involvement

Part 6. Certification

I am the head of the agency listed in **Part 2.** or I am the person in the agency who was specifically designated by the head of the agency to issue a U Nonimmigrant Status Certification on behalf of the agency. Based upon investigation of the facts, I certify, under penalty of perjury, that the individual identified in **Part 1.** is or was a victim of one or more of the crimes listed in **Part 3.** I certify that the above information is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge, and that I have made and will make no promises regarding the above victim's ability to obtain a visa from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), based upon this certification. I further certify that if the victim unreasonably refuses to assist in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity of which he or she is a victim, I will notify USCIS.

1. Signature of Certifying Official (sign in ink) 

2. Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)

3. Daytime Telephone Number

4. Fax Number

Part 7. Additional Information

If you need extra space to complete any item within this supplement, use the space below or attach a separate sheet of paper; type or print the agency's name, petitioner's name, and the Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (if any) at the top of each sheet; indicate the **Page Number**, **Part Number**, and **Item Number** to which your answer refers; and sign and date each sheet. If you need more space than what is provided, you may also make copies of this page to complete and file with this supplement.

1. Agency Name

Petitioner's Name

2.a. Family Name (Last Name)

2.b. Given Name (First Name)

2.c. Middle Name

3. A-Number (if any)
▶ A-

4.a. Page Number 4.b. Part Number 4.c. Item Number

4.d.

5.a. Page Number 5.b. Part Number 5.c. Item Number

5.d.

6.a. Page Number 6.b. Part Number 6.c. Item Number

6.d.

