



**SC IMMIGRANT VICTIM COALITION  
MIDLANDS COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING  
IMMIGRATION LAW & POLICY UPDATES FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME  
JUNE 7, 2022**

**RESOURCE LIST & ATTORNEY CONTACT INFORMATION**

**WELCOME & OVERVIEW OF IMMIGRATION RELIEF FOR VICTIMS**

**SPEAKER:** **Patricia Ravenhorst**, General Counsel, SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, [pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org](mailto:pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org)

**RESOURCE**

- New Infographic – DHS U.S. Immigration Benefits for Noncitizen Crime Victims - <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-11/U.S.%20Immigration%20Benefits%20for%20Noncitizen%20Crime%20Victims.pdf>

**CURRENT POLICIES REGARDING ICE PROSECUTORIAL DISCRETION  
POLICIES FOR VICTIMS & WITNESSES**

**SPEAKERS:**

- **Rebekah Niblock**, Staff Attorney, Immigrant Justice Program, Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, [rebekahn@charlottelegaladvocacy.org](mailto:rebekahn@charlottelegaladvocacy.org)
- **Abbey Kepf**, Supervisory Special Agent, Human Trafficking & Exploitation Group, Homeland Security Investigations (North Charleston Field Office)
- **Lt. Jade Roy**, Human Trafficking & Immigration Units, SLED Office of Alcohol, Narcotics & Vice Services - <https://www.sled.sc.gov/vice.html>

**FREE OR LOW-COST DEPORTATION DEFENSE LEGAL RESOURCES**

- **Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy - Pro Bono Room at the Charlotte Immigration Court** provides walk in free screenings & “friend of court” services - <https://charlottelegaladvocacy.org/immigration/>
- **Catholic Charities Immigration Services – Rock Hill Office** – provides low cost removal defense for SC residents - <https://charitiessc.org/immigration-legal-services>
  - **SCCADVASA Contract Attorney Program** – free services for victims of interpersonal violence through advocate or attorney referral only; contact:



Patricia Ravenhorst at [pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org](mailto:pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org) (victims should NOT be referred directly to SCCADVASA)

- **SC Department of Social Services via contract attorneys – free services for children in foster care;** contact Dennis Gmerek, Managing Attorney for County Operations, [Dennis.Gmerek@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Dennis.Gmerek@dss.sc.gov)

## RESOURCES

- **National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project, Family Court Bench Card on Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Confidentiality** (Updated 2021) - <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/pdf/CONF-VAWA-BchCrd-FamCtConfidentiality-10.11.2013.pdf>
- **“Doyle Memo” - Guidance to OPLA Attorneys Regarding the Enforcement of Civil Immigration Laws and the Exercise of Prosecutorial Discretion, April 3, 2022** - [https://www.ice.gov/doclib/about/offices/opla/OPLA-immigration-enforcement\\_guidanceApr2022.pdf](https://www.ice.gov/doclib/about/offices/opla/OPLA-immigration-enforcement_guidanceApr2022.pdf)
- **ICE Policy Directive, Using a Victim-Centered Approach with Noncitizen Crime Victims, August 10, 2021** - <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/news/releases/2021/11005.3.pdf>
- **Blue Campaign Information for Law Enforcement re Victim-Centered Approach** - <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/law-enforcement>
- **SC Bill - S. 1032 – Proposed Move of SC Immigration Enforcement Unit to SLED** - [https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124\\_2021-2022/prever/1032\\_20220511.htm](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess124_2021-2022/prever/1032_20220511.htm)

## **U VISAS FOR COOPERATING VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIME**

SPEAKER: **Rebekah Hiatt**, SC Victim Assistance Network, [rebekah@scvan.org](mailto:rebekah@scvan.org)

### FREE OR LOW-COST LEGAL SERVICES FOR U VISAS

- U Visa Eligibility Evaluations, U Certification Requests to Law Enforcement & Post-Certification Referral Assistance to Immigration Attorneys for U visa application filing
  - **SC Victim Assistance Network** - <https://www.scvanlegal.org/apply/>
  - **SC Legal Services** – Phone Intake Line - (888) 346-5592
- Full U Visa Services – U Certification Requests & Applications to USCIS



- **Catholic Charities Immigration Services (any office)** – low cost services for any qualifying victim - <https://charitiessc.org/immigration-legal-services>
- **SCCADVASA Contract Attorney Program** – free services for victims of interpersonal violence – through advocate or attorney referral only; contact: Patricia Ravenhorst at [pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org](mailto:pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org) (victims should NOT be referred directly to SCCADVASA)
- **SC Department of Social Services via contract attorneys – free services for children in foster care**; contact Dennis Gmerek, Managing Attorney for County Operations, [Dennis.Gmerek@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Dennis.Gmerek@dss.sc.gov)

## RESOURCES

- **South Carolina U Certifier Database by Agency** – Contact Rebekah Hiatt ([rebekah@scvan.org](mailto:rebekah@scvan.org)) at the SC Victim Assistance Network to provide updates & obtain free access to information on U Certifying Agency Contacts, Policies & Preferences
- **USCIS, U Nonimmigrant Status Bona Fide Determination Process FAQs** - <https://www.uscis.gov/records/electronic-reading-room/u-nonimmigrant-status-bona-fide-determination-process-faqs>
- **ILRC - Overview of the New U Nonimmigrant (“U Visa”) Bona Fide Determination** - <https://www.ilrc.org/overview-new-u-nonimmigrant-%E2%80%9Cu-visa%E2%80%9D-bona-fide-determination>
- **DHS, U Law Enforcement Resource Guide, 2019** - [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/20\\_1228\\_uscis\\_u-visa-law-enforcement-resource-guide.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-12/20_1228_uscis_u-visa-law-enforcement-resource-guide.pdf)

## **CONTINUED PRESENCE & T VISAS FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

SPEAKER: **Anne Ross**, Tri County Human Trafficking Task Force/Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services, [aross@charlestonprobono.org](mailto:aross@charlestonprobono.org)

### FREE LEGAL SERVICES FOR CONTINUED PRESENCE & T VISAS

- **Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services** (Anne Ross) – <https://charlestonprobono.org/>
- **SC Victim Assistance Network** - <https://www.scvanlegal.org/apply/>
- **SC Legal Services** – Phone Intake Line - (888) 346-5592



- **SCCADVASA Contract Attorney Program – free services for victims of interpersonal violence** – through advocate or attorney referral only; contact: Patricia Ravenhorst at [pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org](mailto:pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org) (victims should NOT be referred directly to SCCADVASA)
- **SC Department of Social Services via contract attorneys – free services for children in foster care**; contact Dennis Gmerek, Managing Attorney for County Operations, [Dennis.Gmerek@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Dennis.Gmerek@dss.sc.gov)

#### RESOURCES

- **DHS, T Visa Law Enforcement Resource Guide, 2020** - <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-11/T%20Visa%20Law%20Enforcement%20Resource%20Guide.pdf>
- **DHS Center for Countering Human Trafficking Resources** - <https://www.dhs.gov/dhs-center-countering-human-trafficking#:~:text=The%20mission%20of%20the%20Department,aligning%20DHS'%20capabilities%20and%20expertise>
  - **Continued Presence Brochure** - <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/human-trafficking/pdf/continued-presence.pdf>
  - **Continued Presence Resource Guide** - <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/human-trafficking/ccht/continuedPresenceToolkit.pdf>

**\*\* For sample Continued Presence application forms & cover letters, please contact Patricia Ravenhorst, SCCADVASA at [pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org](mailto:pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org)**

#### **VAWA SELF-PETITIONS & VAWA WAIVERS FOR REMOVAL OF CONDITIONS ON LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENCY FOR BATTERED SPOUSES, CHILDREN & PARENTS**

**SPEAKER: Jennifer Pinilla**, Pinilla Law Firm, Irmo, SC – [jenn@pinilla-law.com](mailto:jenn@pinilla-law.com)

#### FREE & LOW-COST LEGAL SERVICES FOR VAWA SELF-PETITIONERS & CONDITIONAL RESIDENCY WAIVERS (Form I-751)

- **SC Victim Assistance Network** - <https://www.scvanlegal.org/apply/>
- **SC Legal Services** – Phone Intake Line - (888) 346-5592
- **Catholic Charities Immigration Services (any office)** – low cost services - <https://charitiessc.org/immigration-legal-services>



- **SCCADVASA Contract Attorney Program – free services for victims of interpersonal violence** – through advocate or attorney referral only; contact: Patricia Ravenhorst at [pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org](mailto:pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org) (victims should NOT be referred directly to SCCADVASA)

## RESOURCES

- **Practice Advisory - VAWA Self-Petition Policy Updates**, by ASISTA, Immigrant Legal Resource Center (“ILRC”), and Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (“CLINIC”) (June 2022) <https://asistahelp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/VAWA-Practice-Advisory-FAW-165050.pdf> \*\* See page 44-45 re Special Considerations for Victims with Pending Family-Based Applications

## **SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS FOR ABUSED, NEGLECTED & ABANDONED CHILDREN**

### SPEAKERS:

- Olivia Jones, Olivia Jones Law, LLC, Columbia, [olivia@oliviajoneslaw.com](mailto:olivia@oliviajoneslaw.com)
- Patricia Ravenhorst, SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, [pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org](mailto:pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org)

### LEGAL RESOURCES FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRATION JUVENILE CASES

- Assistance with Obtaining SIJS Order from SC Family Court
  - Private Family Court Matters – experienced private family law attorneys (rates vary)
    - Midlands - Olivia Jones, Pinilla Law Firm (Jennifer & Mike Pinilla) & Charles Phipps
    - Upstate - Dylan Lingerfelt, Nathalie Morgan, Antonina Grek & David Rutledge
    - Lowcountry - Dana Fields, Sue Chang & Russell Hall
  - Abuse & Neglect Proceedings in Family Court
    - **SC Department of Social Services via contract attorneys** – free services for children in foster care; contact Dennis Gmerek, Managing Attorney for County Operations, [Dennis.Gmerek@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Dennis.Gmerek@dss.sc.gov)
    - **For technical assistance for victims age 11+ -** Patricia Ravenhorst, SC Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, [pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org](mailto:pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org)



- SIJS Immigration Filing with USCIS (Form I-360)
  - **SC Victim Assistance Network** - <https://www.scvanlegal.org/apply/>
  - **Catholic Charities Immigration Services (any office)** – low cost services for any qualifying victim - <https://charitiessc.org/immigration-legal-services>
  - **SCCADVASA Contract Attorney Program** – free services for victims of interpersonal violence age 11+ – through advocate or attorney referral only; contact: Patricia Ravenhorst at [pravenhorst@sccadvаса.org](mailto:pravenhorst@sccadvаса.org) (victims should NOT be referred directly to SCCADVASA)
  - **SC Department of Social Services via contract attorneys – free services for children in foster care**; contact Dennis Gmerek, Managing Attorney for County Operations, [Dennis.Gmerek@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Dennis.Gmerek@dss.sc.gov)

#### RESOURCES:

- **USCIS, Special Immigrant Juvenile Policy Updates (May 2022)** - <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-US/eb4/SIJ>
- **Immigrant Legal Resource Center, An Overview of the Final Special Immigrant Juvenile Status Regulations (May 2022)**  
<https://www.ilrc.org/overview-final-special-immigrant-juvenile-status-regulations>
- **Immigrant Legal Resource Center - Child Welfare Screening Sheet: Determining Potential Avenues for Legal Status (Sept 2021)**  
<https://www.ilrc.org/child-welfare-screening-sheet-determining-potential-avenues-legal-status>