

Spotlight: Immigration

Volume 1, Issue 3

August 2015

Inside Issue 3

- Learn how victims of crimes can petition to obtain an immigration benefit. Do not be afraid to contact the police if you are a victim of a crime.
- ****If you are a victim of domestic violence and you need help, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233. Services available in Spanish and many other languages. If you are having an emergency, call 911.****
- Updates on DAPA and DACA– What is going on?
- Staff announcements from Catholic Charities.

Table of Contents:

U-Nonimmigrant Status	1
DACA/DAPA Updates	2
By the Way	2

I am Victim no more.

Have you feared reporting crimes to the police for fear of deportation? Do you find yourself in an abusive relationship because you feel that you are trapped? Are you without legal immigration status? You are not alone. Many undocumented individuals fail to report crimes to the authorities for fear of deportation. U-Nonimmigrant Status is a response to that negative stigma by encouraging noncitizens to speak to police about crimes. Many who cooperate with the police are eligible to receive an immigration benefit.

U-Nonimmigrant status is a form of immigration relief for victims of certain crimes. The victim must have cooperated with the police during the investigation or prosecution of the crime. Qualifying crimes include domestic violence, false imprisonment, armed robbery, and many more. If you or anyone you know has been a victim of a crime and has cooperated with the police, please contact an immigration attorney.

In order to qualify you must prove that you are: (A) the victim of a qualifying crime, as specified by the Immigration and Nationality Act; (B) have suffered substantial physical and/or emotional abuse as a result of this criminal activity; (C) possess information concerning this criminal activity; (D) have been a victim of this criminal activity while present in the United States; (E) helpful, have been or will be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of this criminal activity.

There are very few restrictions to apply for U-Nonimmigrant Status: You do not need to have entered the United States lawfully; You do not need to have been married to



your abuser; Your case did not have to be prosecuted.

There are many benefits to U-Nonimmigrant Status:

1. You are eligible to work lawfully in the United States by obtaining a work permit, social security card, and driver's license.
2. After three years with the status you can apply to become a lawful permanent resident.
3. You can include certain qualifying family members in your petition.
4. Most inadmissibility bars are waived.

Do not let money be an issue! Qualifying individuals can apply for a fee waiver to cover the costs of the application. Additionally, attorneys may also be able to take your case at little to no cost.

If you have suffered or are currently suffering due to the criminal activity, please seek professional help. There are various clinics that provide therapy at reduced prices. It is important that you find help.

Always contact the police if you are in danger. Mental, verbal, psychological, and physical abuse are never ok. If you seek immediate help, **call 911.**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE, LEGAL SERVICES FOR IMMIGRANTS

731 W. Washington St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204

Phone: 414-643-8570

Fax: 414-643-6726

www.ccmke.org

www.facebook.com/ccmkeLSI



The information presented in this newsletter should not be considered legal advice. Please remember that immigration laws and regulations can change at any time. If you have a question about immigration law, you should speak with an immigration attorney. To schedule an intake appointment at Catholic Charities, please call (414) 643 8570 x. 4418.

By the Way...

1. Legal Services for Immigrants welcomes a new Jesuit Volunteer, **Brenna Cass**! Brenna graduated from Boston College with a degree in Sociology. She is excited to begin working with our clients.

2. On September 11, 2015 we will be hosting a Refugee Workshop to those that work primarily work with refugees. If you know of anyone who would like to attend, please contact Vanessa Garza at vgarza@ccmke.org for more information.

3. IMPORTANT: There has been much confusion about three year Employment Authorization Cards issued to DACA holders. If you received a three-year work permit *after* February 16, 2015 you **must return** the card to USICS. However, if you received a three-year work permit *before* February 16, 2015, you **do not** need to return it to USCIS.

4. DACA Renewals are taking much longer to process than expected. If your status expires in 5 months or less contact an immigration attorney or other representative to submit the application as soon as possible. If you do not submit it at least 4 months in advance, you might be without status. Do not wait!

Updates on DAPA and DACA



There is so much that is happening with immigration these days, it is hard to keep up. Don't worry, we are here to help. Our office has received a lot of questions regarding DACA and more recently DAPA. We will try to clarify some information now.

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) is a program that was created on June 15, 2012 by President Barack Obama. *This program is still in effect.* If you initially qualified for DACA, you can still apply. In order to qualify you must show that:

- You entered the United States before your 16th birthday;
- You have lived continuously in the United States since, at least, June 15, 2007;
- You were present in the United States on June 15, 2012;
- You were under 31 years of age on June 15, 2012;

- You did not have lawful status on June 15, 2012;
- You are currently in school, graduated from high school or earned a GED; and
- You have not been convicted of a felony, three misdemeanors, or one significant misdemeanor.

If you still meet these requirements you are eligible to apply today!

DAPA (Deferred Action for Parental Authority) is program that was introduced by President Barack Obama on November 20, 2014. *This program is not in effect.* The injunction on February 16, 2015 by the State of Texas suspended this program until the Supreme Court comes to a decision. DAPA would give parents of United States citizen children the ability to obtain a work permit, social security card, and

driver's license. If you believe you qualify for this program, **do not apply!** Applications are not being accepted, so do not be the victim of a scam.

Along with DAPA, President Obama expanded the current DACA program to those who entered on or before January 1, 2010. *This program is not in effect.* If you believe you qualify for the new

BEWARE: Many officers report individuals with traffic tickets to the Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE), which can use those reports to place undocumented persons in removal proceedings. If you do not have a valid driver's license, driving is risky.