
Interviewing and Assisting Trafficking Survivors

by Dorchen A. Leidholdt

Barriers to Interviewing and Assisting Survivors

As challenging as it can be to identify human trafficking and recognize victims, the tasks of interviewing and assisting survivors of human trafficking can be even more daunting. Trafficking victims endure the same kind of harms as victims of many commonly occurring crimes. What distinguishes trafficking is that, while most crime victims suffer discrete injuries that occur during a limited period of time, victims of human trafficking are often subjected to a wide array of criminal acts inflicted over a period of months or even years.

Trafficking victims have much in common with other kinds of crime victims and frequently have experienced the same forms of violence as victims of intimate partner violence, rape and sexual harassment, theft and extortion, stalking and torture, and official corruption. Like intimate partner violence, trafficking often involves betrayal by individuals the victim trusted and loved as well as a course of abusive conduct that extends over years. Like rape and sexual harassment, trafficking often involves a profound violation of the victim's most intimate boundaries. Like theft and extortion, trafficking almost always robs victims of economic resources, leaving victims with urgent material needs. Like stalking and torture, trafficking deprives victims of privacy and peace of mind, instilling in them a state of fear. Like official corruption, trafficking too often denies victims the possibility of justice and protection.

The multifaceted and prolonged nature of the victimization affects trafficking victims in ways that can impede the efforts of attorneys and other service providers to interview victims and develop strong working relationships with them. The many obstacles faced by the legal or social service professional attempting to assist trafficking victims are almost always the direct result of the harm — physical, psychological, and material — inflicted by the traffickers who carry out this profoundly injurious crime.

Trauma

Many trafficking victims have sustained psychological trauma, symptoms of which can range from depression, often accompanied by listlessness or flattened affect, to panic attacks and extreme emotionality. Often victims attempt to distance themselves psychically from their terrifying and humiliating experiences through minimization, memory loss, and dissociation. Many try to numb feelings of anxiety through alcohol and drugs. Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is extremely common among victims of human trafficking.¹ A normal response to abnormal degrees of stress, PTSD is characterized by intrusion (emotional reactions, flashbacks, images, nightmares), avoidance (dissociation, minimizing, numbing, denial), and arousal (anger, difficulty concentrating, insomnia).²

Prior to being trafficked, many victims suffer traumatic events that inflict psychic trauma. This prior trauma not only attracts the attention of traffickers, who are adept at seeking out vulnerable victims and exploiting their vulnerability, but also magnifies the psychic harm of subsequent trauma. Typical is the experience of Kika, a sex trafficking victim from Latin America who was a client at Sanctuary for Families, a large New York City not-for-profit organization serving domestic violence and trafficking victims and their families.³ Before Kika met the man who lured her to the United States, pressed her into debt bondage, and handed her over to a brothel manager, she had been beaten by her mother as a child, raped by her mother's boyfriend, and battered by a boyfriend. Like sharks that scent blood in the water, Kika's traffickers were attracted by and preyed on her vulnerability. The psychic damage they inflicted was greatly compounded by her previous psychic injury and rendered her so disabled that she was unable to resist the demands of her traffickers and identify routes of escape.⁴

Many victims display the hallmarks of traumatic bonding, also known as Stockholm syndrome, sometimes viewing their exploiters as their protectors. Mario, a labor trafficking victim from Honduras, had witnessed the murder of his beloved older brother by a rival street gang and had been threatened and held captive by the "coyotes" he paid to smuggle him through Mexico and across the border. Once in the United States he fell under the control of a construction boss who confiscated his passport and held him in a trailer on the construction company's work site, forcing him to work long hours for no pay. However, the construction boss occasionally wired money to Mario's family in Mexico. Sporadic acts of apparent kindness like the payments to his family led Mario to feel indebted to the man who was brutally exploiting him. Mario's traumatic bonding intensified his trafficker's domination and control.⁵

High degrees of trauma like that sustained by Kika and Mario heighten the challenges faced by lawyers and other professionals attempting to interview and assist victims. Minimization, denial, and memory loss, all symptoms of psychological trauma, can make it extremely difficult to elicit information necessary to understand whether the exploiter's conduct rises to the level of actionable trafficking, to draft petitions and criminal complaints, and to prepare the victim to testify at trial.

Physical trauma, especially traumatic brain injury, may also be at the root of difficulties victims have remembering. Traffickers and other abusers know that leaving victims with visible physical injuries can tip off authorities and render victims less marketable. Beatings sustained in and around the head can leave even cooperative victims with enduring difficulties producing a coherent narrative of their histories and details of their trafficking experience.

Interviewing survivors and preparing them for court proceedings require them to recount the traumatic events. Not infrequently this can cause them to reexperience the earlier trauma and trigger traumatic symptoms. For survivors, the pain of reliving traumatic events can discourage them from attending meetings with attorneys and other service providers and cooperating with law enforcement officials. For the providers attempting to assist survivors and not cause further harm, the experience of inadvertently retraumatizing a client during interviews or preparation sessions can be extremely uncomfortable and thwart well-intentioned efforts to provide help.

Anger and irritability are frequent symptoms of the kind of depression and trauma victims experience, and it is not unusual for survivors to misdirect these emotions caused by abuse at the hands of their traffickers to those attempting to provide protection and assistance. Attorneys at Sanctuary for Families provided legal representation to Kristina, an Eastern European trafficking victim who had been serially raped, first by the American man who recruited her on an internet bride website and then, when she fled from him, by a man who falsely claimed to be a police officer. The efforts of attorneys to help Kristina obtain immigration relief and medical assistance for her seizure disorder were frequently met with outbursts of rage and, on two occasions, with physically menacing acts. Staff struggled to maintain their composure in the face of repeated incidents of provocative and even frightening behavior.⁶

Fear

Traffickers maintain control over their victims by deliberately instilling in them high degrees of fear, often by threatening to harm them and those they

love.⁷ Since traffickers often have connections with victims' communities and know the whereabouts of their family members, victims are acutely aware that their exploiters can make good on such threats. Olga, a Sanctuary for Families client and a labor trafficking victim from the Ukraine, was subjected to chilling threats. Not only was she told that she would be forced into prostitution if she disobeyed her traffickers' orders, after she tried to escape she was warned that if she did not do everything her traffickers demanded they would murder her two small children in the Ukraine, eviscerate them, and sell their organs. Olga was paralyzed by fear, and when she was rescued had frequent and uncontrollable panic attacks. This made it extremely difficult for her attorney to gather the information she needed to prepare Olga's application for a T-visa.⁸

Traffickers also instill in their victims fears about the response of law enforcement and immigration authorities. Sex trafficking victims are routinely told by their traffickers that if they try to seek help from the police they will be arrested for prostitution and, if they are immigrants, summarily deported. Sex traffickers threaten victims with children that, if the authorities find out that they were in prostitution, their children will be put in foster care and they will be deported and never see their children again. Labor traffickers tell victims that authorities will separate them from their families, incarcerate them in immigration jails, and deport them back into the conditions of poverty they had hoped to escape.

Sadly, too often these threats are realized. Both sex and labor trafficking victims often experience mistreatment by authorities, not only in their countries of origin, where official corruption may be rampant, but also in the United States. Survivors of sex trafficking often report that law enforcement officers tell them after arrest that they will be released if they provide sexual services to the officers. Sex trafficking victims who are apprehended by the police are far more likely to be arrested and treated as law breakers than identified as victims and offered services. Trafficking victims who are undocumented immigrants are frequently subjected to arrest, detention, and deportation by American criminal justice and immigration authorities more used to expelling "illegal immigrants" than identifying victims and providing them with protection.

Existing in conditions of heightened fear for months or even years not only can exacerbate trauma and its symptoms but also can make it difficult for survivors to trust anyone, especially someone who is or appears to be connected with government authorities, including lawyers. Repeated experiences of betrayal and exploitation, often by those in whom survivors had placed their trust, render them suspicious, guarded, reluctant to disclose important information, and likely to resort to giving those attempting to assist them the false narratives drilled into them by their traffickers.

Shame

Like all those who are victimized, survivors of human trafficking experience shame — shame at having been tricked and deceived, at having been taken advantage of, at having been exploited, and often at failing to provide family members with money survivors had intended to send them. Because the period of victimization is often prolonged, the shame they experience is often deeper and more persistent than that experienced by other crime victims.

Sex trafficking victims almost invariably experience a profound degree of shame.⁹ Over and over, they are required by both their traffickers and their customers to perform acts that are degrading, humiliating, and repugnant to them. Deepening their shame, they often are required to feign pleasure in the degradation and to pretend that they are engaging in humiliating acts of their own volition. Not infrequently these acts are photographed or filmed, and the victims are threatened that the pornographic images will be shown to family members and/or publicized on the internet. Victims are often subjected to verbal abuse by their exploiters and their customers, called names like “dirty whore,” “puta,” and “slut” that suggest that their very beings are vile and that they are in prostitution because they are prostitutes by nature.

In most societies, especially traditional ones, prostitution is considered the lowest human condition, one that renders those in it permanently stigmatized and cast out of normal society. Prostitution is considered immoral, a violation of religious precepts, and prostitutes are regarded as “fallen women.” In many countries, including our own, prostitution is a crime. By inducing their victims into prostitution, sex traffickers marginalize them, creating a vast gulf between victims and those attempting to assist them. It is not surprising that sex trafficking victims often find it difficult if not impossible to recount experiences that are mortifying in the extreme.

Isolation

Extreme isolation, the *sine qua non* of human trafficking, takes place in a variety of settings — private homes, farms and factories, brothels, strip clubs, and sex shops. This isolation does not separate victims from all human contact; indeed, they are usually surrounded by others, they enjoy little if any privacy, and human contact of the most invasive nature imaginable is often pressed upon them. Instead, the isolation that is endemic to human trafficking takes the form of the trafficker rigorously controlling the victim’s ability to communicate, cutting the victim off from systems of support, and curtailing his or her freedom of movement.

Traffickers isolate their victims for many, interconnected reasons: to separate them from sources of help, to prevent them from obtaining information that could facilitate escape, to keep them in a state of disorientation and dependence, to stop them from discovering the truth about the trafficker's campaign of misinformation, and to shield their operations from detection by law enforcement authorities. Often trafficking victims suffer in conditions of isolation for weeks, months, or years.

The isolation imposed by traffickers amplifies their power and control over their victims and impresses the traffickers' world view and belief system on them. Sex traffickers often carry this to an extreme, employing a process called "seasoning," which systematically breaks down and reconstructs the victim's values, sense of self, and understanding of her or his relationship to society. A victim who has been successfully seasoned regards the trafficker as an omniscient, omnipotent god and offers him devotion and blind obedience. Isolation and its consequences mean that the legal professional trying to connect with a victim may first need to deal with someone deeply influenced by, if not still in the service of, the trafficker.

Adaptation

While trafficking is often precipitated by tactics of overt brutality and/or deception, as months turn into years, traumatized, fearful, shamed, and isolated victims may begin to accept their circumstances. They struggle to make the intolerable survivable. They learn that fighting against their exploiters is dangerous and futile. The best that can be achieved is accommodation. If traumatic bonding kicks in, victims come to regard traffickers as family and protectors.

When exploitation in trafficking becomes routine, victims no longer try to escape but instead try to find a way to survive physically and emotionally within its confines. Often it takes an overtly violent experience to rouse the victim from this trauma-induced stupor and precipitate an effort to escape. Kika, one of Sanctuary for Families' sex trafficking clients, is a good example. Psychologically devastated by having to provide sexual services to twenty customers a night, Kika adapted to life in a brothel by creating a family with the other victims. Annie, a trafficking victim from the Dominican Republic, became her confidante and best friend. Only when Annie was murdered in front of her by an irate customer did Kika's illusion of safety shatter, and she began to try to find an exit route.¹⁰ Similarly, Olga, the labor trafficking victim from the Ukraine, became inured to life as a labor slave until her trafficker tried to rape her. Then she tried the only exit available to her — suicide.¹¹

When she first met with her lawyer at Sanctuary for Families, Katerina presented as a battered wife who needed an order of protection. Later she told her attorney that she had previously been in prostitution, which she described as entirely voluntary. To the attorney's surprise, a law student intern who had been preparing Katerina's application for a civil order of protection reported that Katerina was a trafficking victim. In her mid-20's she had gone to an employment agency in Moscow in response to an ad for babysitters in New York City. When she arrived at Kennedy Airport, she was met by a man, working with a female confederate, who placed her in debt bondage, confiscated her passport, and, with the debt mounting, offered Katerina a way to settle it: stripping in Newark or performing "massage" in Brooklyn. Katerina's entry into prostitution was far from volitional, and the three years in brothel and escort prostitution that followed left her suicidal, self-hating, and alcoholic. Nonetheless, Katerina continued to insist that she was not a victim and that the other women in the brothel had suffered far more than she.¹²

Katerina's attorney came to realize that her client was engaged in the psychological strategy of "reappraisal," "cognitively transforming the situation so as to alter its emotional impact."¹³ As a team of psychologists explains, "This process may include an individual reappraising an aversive situation as not as bad as it could be, minimizing the harm, [providing] justification for the situation, [making] social comparisons to others who are worse off, or [demonstrating] acceptance of the situation."¹⁴

Lawyers and other service providers working with possible victims of trafficking who deny sustaining harm or minimize negative effects should be alert to the likelihood that reappraisal or other mechanisms of adaptation may be at work. Rather than simply accepting a client's disclaimer of harm at face value, as initially occurred in Katerina's case, the legal professional should sensitively explore all of the facts and circumstances before ruling out the crime of trafficking. Once Katerina was correctly identified as a victim of human trafficking, not only did her self-blame abate but she became eligible for a T-Visa and the many benefits available to T-Visa applicants.

Recommendations to Legal Professionals

Work to Develop a Relationship of Trust

Building the trust that is essential to a healthy attorney-client relationship is not an easy task but there are steps you can take to help create a strong, trusting relationship. Your first task may be dispelling misunderstandings about your role. Even though you may be a private practitioner or a lawyer employed by a public interest organization, your client may assume that you are a government official and regard you with suspicion and fear.

As soon as possible, explain to your client, if it is accurate, that you are not working for the government and that all of his or her communications to you will be kept strictly confidential. Emphasize that your client can speak with you freely and openly, without concern that you will disclose his or her confidences to the government or the traffickers. If your client is an immigrant, broach the subject of immigration status with sensitivity: For example, instead of asking “Are you undocumented?” you could say “We may be able to help you with your immigration legal needs.” Be alert to the power imbalance inherent in the attorney-client relationship and work to diminish it by acknowledging the client’s strengths, listening to his or her concerns, and demonstrating responsiveness to his or her needs.

Prioritize Effective Communication

Effective communication is the foundation of a strong attorney-client relationship. If your client does not speak English and you do not speak her or his language, be sure that you communicate through a competent interpreter who not only speaks your client’s language but, if appropriate, your client’s dialect. Equally important, make sure that the interpreter treats your client with sensitivity, professionalism, and respect. If you can communicate with your client at all without an interpreter, after the interpretation has begun try to ask your client, outside of the interpreter’s earshot, whether he or she feels comfortable with the interpreter’s level of skill and attitude. Both your client and the interpreter must understand his or her duty of confidentiality. If the interpreter is from your client’s ethnic community, inquire as to whether he or she has connections to your client’s kinship group or that of the exploiters and, if so, find another interpreter.

Whether your client speaks your language or not, try to use language that is readily accessible to a layperson and, whenever possible, avoid legal jargon.

Take time to thoroughly explain to your client the available legal remedies, each step of the process, the identities and role of key players, what to expect during interaction with each of them, and what will be expected of your client in and outside of court. The better prepared your client is for each stage of the case, the more comfortable he or she will feel, the better he or she will present, and the more confidence he or she will have in the representation. Because emergencies often arise suddenly in trafficking cases, make sure that your client has a way to reach you if necessary.

Be Alert to Symptoms of Psychological Distress

Legal professionals working with trafficking victims need to be alert to the possibility that their clients are experiencing psychological distress and be able to recognize its symptoms. Many trafficking victims suffer from anxiety, depression, and other symptoms of trauma. A normal response to acutely distressing abnormal experiences, these symptoms can interfere with the victim rebuilding her life and working with her attorney on her case. Victims may avoid talking about painful experiences, may deny that they occurred, or may break down when attempting to describe them. You may discover that your client has suicidal ideations or is actively suicidal. If possible, attempt to make referrals to appropriately trained professionals with experience and skill in working with trauma victims. Be aware that your client may have developed substance abuse problems in an effort to alleviate feelings of depression and anxiety. If you see signs that this is the case, identify appropriate substance abuse treatment providers and encourage your client to seek their assistance.

Strive to Mitigate the Effects of Recounting Traumatic Events

Describing traumatic experiences almost invariably forces trafficking survivors to relive them and often sparks traumatic symptoms. Legal professionals cannot avoid such inquiries because an accurate, detailed account of incidents of trafficking, the tactics of the traffickers, and the effects on the victim is essential to almost every kind of case intended to provide survivors with legal relief. While there is no easy solution to this dilemma, there are ways that the psychological harm from participation in the legal process can be alleviated. It may be less injurious, and even therapeutic, for victims to transcribe accounts of their traumatic experiences. If your client is literate, consider asking her or him to prepare a written narrative of her or his experiences. Ask questions in a supportive, nonjudgmental way and affirm your client's responses in a manner that demonstrates understanding and compassion. Avoid body language,

expressions, or comments that indicate that you find her pitiful or her experiences shocking or disgusting or that you take a voyeuristic interest in her ordeal.

Understand that there may need to be multiple meetings before your client can disclose incidents that are especially painful to remember or humiliating to reveal. Scheduling the interview over several days may help prevent your client from being flooded with feelings of distress. If your client breaks down in the course of a session and timing permits, take a break and consider ending early. Reassure your client that it is not unusual to become upset in an interview when asked to remember traumatic occurrences. Remember that your client has survived an experience in which his or her autonomy was severely curtailed if not destroyed; in the interview, let your client determine the timing and pace to the greatest extent possible. Try to end the interview in a positive way, for example, by acknowledging your client's strength and courage.¹⁵

Avoid Exacerbating Feelings of Embarrassment, Shame, or Self-blame

Choose a meeting location that is private and avoid interruptions once your interview begins. Do not disclose your client's circumstances to anyone other than colleagues who are part of your legal team. Realize that your client may not have disclosed the trafficking to family members or friends, who could be judgmental or critical, so don't interview her or him in their presence or allude in their presence to her or his victimization. Be careful not to imply in your comments or questions that your client was responsible for the exploitation or stayed in an abusive situation voluntarily. Avoid, for example, asking, "Why couldn't you leave?" When inquiring about sexual abuse, let your client guide the discussion and reassure her or him that such victimization is common in trafficking cases and that he or she is not to blame. Understand that sex trafficking victims often experience prostitution as rape. Avoid asking questions such as "Was sex a part of your job?" that downplay the seriousness of the violation survivors typically feel.

Be Sensitive to Issues of Gender

If you are male and your client is a female victim of sexual exploitation or abuse, ask her if she would be more comfortable talking with a legal professional who is female and, if so, try to enlist the help of a sensitive female colleague. Demonstrate through your words and actions that you are not being judgmental. You may wish to acknowledge the strength and agency that facilitated her survival. Recognize that trafficking victims often have complex relationships with and feelings about their traffickers and that traumatic bonding

may still be at work. If appropriate, explain that it is not unusual for victims to have feelings of love or gratitude toward those who abused them.

Develop and Implement a Safety Plan

Safety planning is as essential in trafficking cases as in cases of domestic violence. It may have begun before you even meet your client; inquire about safety considerations from any referral sources, such as law enforcement providers. Ensure that the meeting place for your interviews with your client is in a safe location, ideally one that is confidential. Help your client understand the importance of keeping the fact and substance of your meetings confidential. Find out where your client's traffickers and any confederates are, and work with your client to develop a plan in which they can be avoided.

Often the next step — and the most difficult one — is identifying a safe place for the survivor to live. Shelter resources for trafficking survivors are scarce. Explore the possibility of your client entering a domestic violence shelter and, if there is resistance on the part of shelter staff, emphasize to them the similarities of trafficking to intimate partner violence. Be sure that the shelter is not near the living quarters or operations of the traffickers and their associates. If local shelter is not available, explore the possibility of your client relocating to another part of the state or to another state with such facilities.

Other safety measures available to domestic violence victims may be equally beneficial to trafficking victims, such as criminal orders of protection, which usually require the initiation of a criminal case against the trafficker, and civil orders of protection, which usually require that the trafficker and victim have an intimate relationship. Because the family members of victims are frequently the subject of traffickers' threats, your safety plan should include steps that protect the safety of the client's family members in the home country. In one Sanctuary for Families' case, a survivor's attorney persuaded the prosecutor to postpone the arrest of her client's traffickers, who operated between Mexico and the United States, until her daughter in Mexico, whom the traffickers had under surveillance, could be spirited to safety in a domestic violence shelter in New York City.

Be Attentive to Your Client's Material Needs

Trafficking survivors have an array of urgent material needs. Be attentive to these needs and work to address them. They include the need for a safe place to live, food, toiletries, clothing, and medical care. Survivors who are undocumented may not be eligible for traditional public benefits such as food stamps and cash

assistance; explore the possibility of obtaining benefits for them under New York State's anti-trafficking law and available to T-Visa applicants. Material assistance also includes providing your client with a glass of water, tissues, and snacks during the interview. Helping the survivor address these needs not only will free him or her from dependence on exploiters but will help facilitate a relationship of trust.

Conclusion

Interviewing and assisting survivors of human trafficking pose many of the same challenges as interviewing and assisting victims of domestic violence. For this reason, it can be immensely helpful to reach out to experienced domestic violence victim advocates for suggestions about safety planning and addressing clients' other needs. While working in respectful partnership to assist a client with the strength and courage to survive the unimaginable will test the knowledge and skill of even the most seasoned legal professional, it is likely to be one of the most rewarding experiences of an attorney's legal career.

Notes

1. Melissa Farley, *et al.*, *Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder*, 2 (3/4) *Journal of Trauma Practice* 33, 35 (2003); Melissa Farley & Howard Barkan, *Prostitution, Violence, and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*, 27 (3) *Women & Health* 37, 40-41 (1998).
2. *See, e.g.*, Mary Ann Dutton, *Empowering and Healing the Battered Woman*, at 16-3 (1992).
3. The trafficking victims whose experiences are drawn upon to provide examples for this chapter were all clients of the Center for Battered Women's Legal Services at Sanctuary for Families in New York City. The author of this chapter is the Center's Director.
4. Kika Cerpa, "The Human Toll of Sex Trafficking and the Way Out: Kika's Story," presentation at Mercer University (Mar. 20, 2009).
5. Information provided by the victim to the author.
6. Information provided by the victim to Lori Cohen, Senior Staff Attorney, Center for Battered Women's Legal Services, Sanctuary for Families.
7. Kevin Bales, *Disposable people: New slavery in the global economy* (1999).
8. Information provided by the victim to Lori Cohen, Senior Staff Attorney, Center for Battered Women's Legal Services, Sanctuary for Families.
9. Judith Lewis Herman, "Introduction: Hidden in Plain Sight: Clinical Observations on Prostitution," in Melissa Farley, ed., *Prostitution, Trafficking, and Traumatic Stress* (2003).
10. Information provided by the victim to the author.
11. Information provided by the victim to Lori Cohen, Senior Staff Attorney, Center for Battered Women's Legal Services, Sanctuary for Families.
12. Information provided by the victim to the author.
13. J. Gross, *Antecedent-and response-focused emotion regulation: Divergent consequences for experience, expression, and physiology*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 74, 284 (1998).
14. T.K. Logan et al., *Understanding Human Trafficking in the United States, Trauma, Violence, and Abuse*, Vol. 10, No. 1, 15 (January 2009).
15. World Health Organization, *WHO Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Interviewing Trafficked Women* (2003).

T Nonimmigrant Status and Human Trafficking: U.S. Law, Policy, Government and Non-Government Resources

FEDERAL LAW

Immigration and Nationality Act (INA): 8 USC § 1101, et seq.

- [INA §101\(a\)\(15\)\(T\) \(T eligibility criteria\)](#)
- [INA § 212\(a\) \(Inadmissibility grounds\)](#)
- [INA §212\(d\)\(13\) \(T visa waiver of inadmissibility “incident to trafficking”\)](#)
- [INA §212\(d\)\(3\)\(Nonimmigrant waiver of inadmissibility “national interest”\)](#)
- [INA § 214\(o\) \(Conditions of T Nonimmigrant Status\)](#)

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

- [22 USC § 7101\(13\) \(purpose and findings\)](#)
- [22 USC §7102\(1\) \(abuse or threatened abuse of law or legal process\)](#)
- [22 USC §7102\(3\) \(coercion\)](#)
- [22 USC §7102\(4\)\(commercial sex act\)](#)
- [22 USC §7102\(7\)\(debt bondage\)](#)
- [22 USC §7102\(8\)\(involuntary servitude\)](#)
- [22 USC §7102\(11\)\(severe form of trafficking in persons\)](#)

Criminal Code:

- [18 USC §1589 Forced Labor](#)
- [18 USC §1590 Trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor](#)
- [18 USC §1591 Sex Trafficking](#)
 - [18 USC §1591\(e\)\(1\) “abuse or threatened abuse of legal process”](#)
 - [18 USC §1591\(e\)\(5\) “serious harm”](#)

TITLE 8 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (CFR)

8 CFR

- [§ 214.11\(T visa\)](#)
- [§ 212.16 \(T waivers\)](#)
- [§ 245.23 \(T visa Adjustment of Status to Legal Permanent Resident\)](#)
- [§ 212.18 \(Waivers for T Visa Adjustment of Status\)](#)
- [§ 1214.2 \(EOIR-Admin. Closure & Stay of Removal\)](#)
- [§ 1212.16 \(EOIR-T visa Waivers in Removal Proceedings\)](#)

[Classification for Victims of Severe Forms of Trafficking in Persons; Eligibility for “T” Nonimmigrant Status \(Interim Rule\), 81 Fed. Reg. 92266 \(Dec. 19, 2016\)](#)

- This interim rule, effective January 18, 2017, amended the prior T regulations at 8 C.F.R. §214.11 and related sections. The supplementary information provides helpful background and explanation of the changes.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT POLICY AND REPORTS

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)
Policy Guidance:**

[USCIS Policy Manual Volume 3, Part B Victims of Trafficking](#)

U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons:

[2022 Trafficking in Persons Report](#)

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General:

[Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress on U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons](#)

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families,
Office on Trafficking in Persons:**

[Trafficking Victim Assistance Program \(TVAP\)](#)

NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

[National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) (Operated by [Polaris](#))

[Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking \(CAST\)](#)

[ASISTA](#)



T-VISA

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sanctuaryforfamilies.org

[REDACTED] - 2022

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Vermont Service Center
38 River Road
Essex Junction, VT 05479-0001

RE: [REDACTED]
Form I-1914 filed on behalf of [REDACTED]
Form I-914, Supplement A on behalf of [REDACTED]
Form I-914, Supplement A on behalf of [REDACTED]
Form I-914, Supplement A on behalf of [REDACTED]

Dear USCIS Officer:

Sanctuary for Families represents [REDACTED] (hereinafter "Ms. [REDACTED]"), a citizen of Dominican Republic, who is a victim of a severe form of trafficking, in her Application for T Nonimmigrant Status on Form I-914 and in forms I-914 Supplement A, Application for Immediate Family Members of T Nonimmigrants, for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ROSSIS.

In connection these applications, please find enclosed the following documents:

For Ms. [REDACTED]

- A signed Notice of Appearance of Form G-28;
- A signed Form I-914 and supporting evidence listed in the Index of Supporting Documents
- 3 passport style photos

For Ms. [REDACTED]

- A signed Notice of Appearance on Form G-28
- A signed Form I-914, Supplement A and supporting evidence listed in the Index of Supporting Documents

For Ms. [REDACTED]

- A signed Notice of Appearance on Form G-28
- A signed Form I-914, Supplement A and supporting evidence listed in the Index of Supporting Documents

Hon. Judy Harris Kluger
Executive Director

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*in memoriam



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New York, NY 10268-1406
Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
sanctuaryforfamilies.org

For Ms. [REDACTED]

- A signed Notice of Appearance on Form G-28
- A signed Form I-914, Supplement A and supporting evidence listed in the Index of Supporting Documents

If you [REDACTED] ions r [REDACTED] ding this submis [REDACTED] ot hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED] ext. [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED] Thank you for your consid [REDACTED] enclos [REDACTED] pplication.

Respectfully submitted,



Staff Attorney
Anti-Trafficking Initiative
Sanctuary for Families

Hon. Judy Harris Kluger
Executive Director

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**in memoriam*

██████████ 2019

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Vermont Service Center, VAWA Unit
75 Lower Weldon Street
St. Albans, VT 05479-001

Re: Application for T Nonimmigrant Status for ██████████ (A# ██████████
██████████

Dear USCIS Officer:

Please find enclosed an application for T Nonimmigrant Status filed on behalf of our client ██████████, a ██████████ citizen and victim of a severe form of sex trafficking pursuant to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). We request that all information relating to this application remain confidential because of the nature of this human trafficking case.

I. DOCUMENTS ENCLOSED WITH THIS APPLICATION

██████████ (principal)

- Form G-28, Notice of Appearance of Attorney;
- Form I-914, Application for T Nonimmigrant Status for ██████████
- Form I-912, Request for Fee Waiver and Supporting Documents;¹
- Form I-192 of ██████████, Application for Advance Permission to Enter as a Nonimmigrant; and
- Index of Evidence and Supporting Documents.

██████████ (child)

- Form I-914, Supplement A of ██████████ daughter, ██████████
██████████ Application for Family Member of T-1 Recipient.

¹ Please note that fee waivers for T visa applications are permissible pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 103.7(c)(3)(xviii).

II. SUMMARY OF ELIGIBILITY FOR T NONIMMIGRANT STATUS

We request that [REDACTED] I-914 Application for T Nonimmigrant Status be approved on the following statutory grounds:

- [REDACTED] is physically present in the United States on account of trafficking in persons;
- [REDACTED] is a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons;
- [REDACTED] would suffer extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm upon removal; and
- [REDACTED] has complied with all reasonable requests for assistance in the investigation and prosecution of acts of trafficking in persons.

As described more fully in [REDACTED] affidavit at Exhibit 1, [REDACTED] is a victim of a severe form of trafficking within the meaning of the TVPA. In [REDACTED], [REDACTED] husband at the time tricked [REDACTED] into coming to the United States to sightsee, but she subsequently learned that he was in fact fleeing from loan sharks involved in organized crime. She learned from her family members in [REDACTED] that loan sharks were violently threatening them over nonpayment of the debt and searching for both [REDACTED] and her husband. [REDACTED] now ex-husband abandoned her in the United States, leaving her shackled to his exorbitant gambling debts and extremely vulnerable to her traffickers' tactics of manipulation and coercion. In [REDACTED], [REDACTED] was tricked by a so-called friend into handing over her savings to pay for legitimate massage classes. In reality, the friend trafficked her into a massage parlor where she was forced to provide sexual services to customers. She was subjected to constant surveillance, prevented from leaving the massage parlor, and threatened with deportation and arrest if she attempted to reject customer demands for sexual services. Her traffickers also photographed her passport and threatened to harm her family in [REDACTED] if [REDACTED] failed to comply.

[REDACTED] was not freed from the control of her traffickers until she was arrested by the New York Police Department in the [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]. After her arrest, she came into contact with Sanctuary for Families and other nonprofit service providers dedicated to assisting survivors of gender-based violence. In hopes of bringing her traffickers to justice, [REDACTED] asked her attorneys to assist her in reporting her experiences to the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"). In [REDACTED], [REDACTED] met in person with FBI [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] multiple times and recounted all details of her trafficking experiences to the best of her recollection. In addition, she authorized her attorneys to provide any other follow-up information requested by the FBI. *See* Exhibit 4, Affidavit of [REDACTED]. Neither the FBI nor any other law enforcement agency has made any other requests for assistance, but [REDACTED] remains eager to cooperate with future requests in any investigation or prosecution of her traffickers.

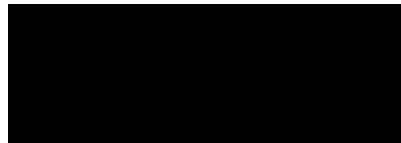
If forced to return to [REDACTED], [REDACTED] would suffer extreme hardship due to her personal circumstances, ongoing symptoms of trauma, and likelihood of social ostracism and discrimination. *See* 8 C.F.R. 214.11(i)(2). First, [REDACTED] faces violent retaliation from her ex-husband's loan sharks for nonpayment of her ex-husband's gambling debts. In [REDACTED] loan sharks have a history of targeting family members with violence in order to force debt repayment, with impunity from local police. *See* Exhibits 19-21. These loan sharks have already threatened [REDACTED] family in order to pressure them for money and information regarding the whereabouts of [REDACTED] and her ex-husband.

Second, [REDACTED] is unable to access mental health counseling and other urgently needed support services in [REDACTED]. She has experienced complex and long-term trauma due to her childhood sexual abuse, her domestic violence during her marriages, and her trafficking experiences in the United States. *See* Exhibit 9, Letter of Case Manager [REDACTED]. To help her continue her journey to recovery, [REDACTED] plans to continue receiving counseling by [REDACTED]. On the other hand, if [REDACTED] were forced to return to [REDACTED], she would struggle to find assistance in [REDACTED]'s weak and largely nonexistent mental health infrastructure. *See* Exhibits 14-17. Millions of people suffer from mental health issues in [REDACTED] yet less than 6% of these sufferers receive treatment. *See* Exhibit 15. The lack of access is compounded by the extreme stigma attached to mental health problems.

In [REDACTED] case, this stigma is exacerbated by the causes of her trauma. Sex is a taboo subject in [REDACTED] and she would face social ostracism and potentially even persecution if she attempted to seek help openly as a victim of sex trafficking. [REDACTED] has been consistently scored as a Tier 3 country by the Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report, meaning that it fails to meet even minimal standards to combat trafficking and assist victims. *See* Exhibit 18. In contrast, in the United States [REDACTED] has been able to take steps to bring her traffickers to justice by reporting her experiences to the FBI.

In conclusion, based on the enclosed Form I-914 and the attached supporting documents, we respectfully request that [REDACTED] application for T-1 Nonimmigrant Status and her daughter's application for T-3 Nonimmigrant Status be granted. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at [REDACTED] by email at [REDACTED] or by regular mail at [REDACTED]. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Sanctuary for Families

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Affidavit describing “yes and “unclear”
responses to questions on Application
for T Nonimmigrant Status on Form I-
914

AFFIDAVIT OF [REDACTED]

A# [REDACTED]

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

I, [REDACTED] pursuant to 28 USC §1746, declare that the following is true and correct:

1. My name is [REDACTED] I was born in [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am submitting this affidavit in support of my application for my T Nonimmigrant Status on Form I-914 based on my status as a victim of human trafficking. I am submitting this affidavit to explain certain answers I gave on Form I-914.
2. With respect to Part B, Other Names Used, [REDACTED] is an incorrect transliteration of my name that appears on certain government documents, including my certificate of disposition from [REDACTED] Criminal Court.
3. With respect to Part C, Question 2, I have answered “no” in response to whether I am submitting a Form I-914, Supplement B, Declaration of Law Enforcement Officer for Victim of Trafficking in Persons. I authorized my attorney to contact federal law enforcement authorities on [REDACTED] to report my trafficking experience. I met with agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation two times. The first meeting occurred on [REDACTED] and the second meeting occurred on [REDACTED] The federal agents have not reached out to request additional information from me. I remain willing to cooperate in any investigation and prosecution of my traffickers.
4. With respect to Part D, Question 1(b), 1(c), 1(e), and 1(g), I have answered “yes” in response to whether I have ever been arrested for any reason, whether I have been charged with committing any crime or offense, whether I have been placed in an alternative sentencing or rehabilitative program, and whether I have ever been in jail or prison. I have been arrested, charged, and have been in jail two times. I describe each circumstance below.

On [REDACTED] while I was under my traffickers’ control and being trafficked for commercial sex, I was arrested by New York police officers who charged me with prostitution and unlicensed massage. The case was referred to the [REDACTED]

████████████████████ in ██████████ of New York and has been ordered dismissed and sealed.

On ██████████ I was arrested under the charge of performing massage without a license in New York. However, this charge was dropped and I was never prosecuted.

5. With respect to Part D, Question 2(a), I have answered “No” in response to if I have engaged in prostitution. While I was under my traffickers’ control, they coerced me into providing commercial sexual services against my will. Therefore, I do not view myself as having engaged in prostitution.
6. With respect to Part D, Question 8(a), I have answered “yes” as to whether I have ever been present or nearby when someone was intentionally killed, tortured, beaten, or injured – that person being myself. I was beaten by my stepfather when I was a child. I was also abused by my ex-husband in ██████████. In addition, customers at the massage parlor where I was trafficked frequently used violence against me, such as hitting me, pulling my hair, and strangling me, if I refused their demands.
7. With respect to Part D, Question 8(c), I have answered “yes” as to whether I have ever been present when any person was in any way compelled to engage in any kind of sexual contact –that person being myself. I was sexually assaulted as a child by a neighbor. Later in life, my first husband would have sex with me against my will during our marriage. In addition, my traffickers coerced me into engaging in sexual contact with customers while I was under their control. I was frequently sexually assaulted by customers at the massage parlor.
8. With respect to Part D, Question 16, I answered “no” as to whether I have ever by fraud or willful misrepresentation of a material fact sought to procure a visa or any other immigration benefit. My ex-husband prepared our applications for U.S. visas without my assistance and I am unsure of the content of those applications. To my knowledge, there were no misrepresentations.

[SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR SIGNATURE]

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and understanding.

[REDACTED]

Dated: _____
New York, NY

Sworn to and subscribed to before me
this ____ day of
_____ 20__

Notary Public

I, [REDACTED], declare that I am competent to translate English into [REDACTED] and that I have read and translated this affidavit to [REDACTED]

SIGNED: _____
[REDACTED]

Sworn to and subscribed to before me
this ____ day of
_____ 20__

Notary Public

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES

Affidavit in support of Application for
T Nonimmigrant Status on Form I-914

AFFIDAVIT OF [REDACTED]
A# [REDACTED]

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

I, [REDACTED], pursuant to 28 USC §1746, declare under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct:

1. My name is [REDACTED] and I am a citizen of [REDACTED], where I was born on [REDACTED], [REDACTED], in [REDACTED]. I am submitting this affidavit in support of my application for T Nonimmigrant Status on Form I-914. I am applying for T Nonimmigrant Status based on being a victim of human trafficking.
2. I was trafficked by people who tricked and pressured me into providing sexual services to customers at a massage parlor against my will. One of my traffickers deliberately tricked me out of all of my savings as “tuition” for what I believed to be legitimate massage classes. Instead, because of the fraud, I was rendered penniless and completely financially dependent on my traffickers. At the massage parlor, my boss and coworkers refused to let me leave and ensured compliance through constant monitoring by video camera, pressuring me to succumb to customer demands for sex, and threatening me with deportation if I called the police. During this time, I was beaten and violently sexually assaulted by customers. I have reported my trafficking experience to the federal authorities and remain willing to cooperate with any investigation they seek to pursue.
3. This affidavit describes the experiences I suffered at the hands of my traffickers, my cooperation with law enforcement, and the extreme hardship I would suffer if forced to return to [REDACTED].

My Childhood Sexual Assault and Violent First Marriage in [REDACTED]

4. I grew up in the countryside in [REDACTED] with my mother, step-father, and step-siblings. It was a difficult childhood. We were poor, and we often barely had enough to eat.
5. Because I was not biologically related to my stepfather, we had a very bad relationship. When I was little, I would often fight with my step-siblings. I had a very sensitive personality and was rather introverted. Whenever the smallest thing happened, I would become upset. But then my step-father would begin beating

- me. He used a stick to beat my step-siblings and me, often leaving bruises. It felt like I could not find any love or warmth in that household.
6. While I was in [REDACTED] school, during approximately [REDACTED], I was sexually assaulted by a male neighbor. He was a migrant worker who lived nearby with his family. He would talk with me on my way to and from school. Eventually, he offered to take me to a park. At the park, he raped me. Because I was so young, I had no concept of what sex even was. All I knew was that I felt violated and ashamed. I never told my family about what happened.
 7. The sexual assault was traumatizing for me. I had very low self-confidence after the attack, and combined with my unhappy home life, I believe I was very vulnerable when I met my first husband, [REDACTED], at [REDACTED] years of age. We met at a [REDACTED] right after I had graduated from [REDACTED], and after only a few months, we decided to get married. His mother was very kind and warm towards me, and I was very naive because of my young age. Even though there were some parts of [REDACTED]'s personality I did not like and he did not treat me very well, I impulsively decided to stop going to school and marry him. I believed I would finally be part of a loving household.
 8. My parents also supported the marriage because his family members were [REDACTED] in the [REDACTED]. His grandfather was even the [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] department.
 9. After our marriage, however, things only became worse and worse. I became pregnant, and when I was [REDACTED] months along, we discovered the child was a girl during an ultrasound. Due to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. My husband's family forced me to get a late-term abortion. One of the worst moments of my life was my lifeless baby lying next to me.
 10. My husband's bad qualities also became more and more apparent. He loved to go out gambling and drinking. He would not come back home until late at night. When he returned home, he would often force me to have sex with him even if I did not want to do so. I remember many nights when I was crying while having sex with him. I later realized he was carousing with other women and exposing me to sexually transmitted diseases.
 11. Finally, in [REDACTED], I asked [REDACTED] for a divorce. He became infuriated. I had never seen him like this before. He grabbed a knife and sliced across my cheek, then locked me in the house. I was imprisoned there for three days and three nights. In those moments, I felt defeated with my entire body. I didn't try to leave and go to the hospital. I simply didn't feel like I had the strength to do anything.
 12. My husband began locking me into the house regularly, for two or three days at a time, every time I brought up divorce again. He would scream at me and threaten to kill my entire family if I left him. I was terrified that he would truly carry out

this threat, especially because his family was so powerful in our community. Eventually, after a few months, I stopped asking him for a divorce.

13. Around this time, I also discovered I was pregnant. This time, I was pregnant with a boy, so I was able to carry him to term. My son, [REDACTED] was born on [REDACTED]. I thought that after my son was born, [REDACTED] might become more responsible and loving. But he did not try to find a steady job. He would not even take care of our son. I had to entrust my son with my mother and go out to work to support us. I travelled to the surrounding cities and worked in different restaurants, sending money back to support our son.
14. At the end of [REDACTED] I was finally able to obtain a divorce from [REDACTED]. I was terrified to bring up divorce to him again because of his past reactions, so I deliberately asked my [REDACTED] to accompany me. [REDACTED] finally agreed to the divorce, and I was able to leave him for good. He demanded that our son stay with him, however. His family has not allowed me to see my son in person ever since, but I have managed to keep in touch with my son online.

My Second Husband's Targeting by Loan Sharks, and Our Journey to the U.S.

15. In [REDACTED], I married my second husband, [REDACTED]. A mutual friend introduced us. We had a wonderful relationship at first, and we married in [REDACTED] of the same year.
16. Soon after we got married, however, I discovered that he was a heavy gambler. He gambled wildly and couldn't seem to stop himself from losing more and more money. He could not borrow money from regular lenders for these gambling debts, so he turned to dangerous underground lenders. These loan sharks had a copy of his personal identification card, so they could easily track down his family information if he failed to pay the money back. At that time, however, I had no idea how deep his debts truly ran.
17. In [REDACTED] I had my second child, a daughter named [REDACTED]. I was allowed to have a second child because [REDACTED] had no children. She currently lives with my [REDACTED] in [REDACTED], and I am applying for her as a derivative family member in conjunction with this application.
18. As the years went by, my husband began to gamble more and more. He stayed out late at night and sometimes would not even come home. I was angry and hurt by his behavior, and we had many arguments. After a particularly bad argument, in [REDACTED], my husband brought up the idea of going to the United States on vacation to help us relax and re-connect. I happily agreed, and he told me he would take care of all the visa and travel arrangements.

19. We entered the country on [REDACTED] on a tourist visa in [REDACTED]. We went to [REDACTED] and other tourist spots in [REDACTED], and then we continued down to [REDACTED] because my husband had some friends there.
20. Looking back, I believe one of [REDACTED] ulterior motives for proposing the trip was to escape the loan sharks. I only wanted to stay in the United States for a short period of time to sightsee before returning to [REDACTED] but when I brought up returning to [REDACTED] to my husband, he didn't want to leave. He told me he wanted to stay for a little longer, and he had control over all the money we had with us, so I could not argue with him.
21. In late [REDACTED] we were still living in [REDACTED], and my mother contacted me in a panic. Men affiliated with [REDACTED] had come to her home demanding that [REDACTED]'s debt be paid. They told her that if they couldn't find [REDACTED] they would settle for me. When I heard this, I knew I could not return to [REDACTED] safely unless I had the entire balance of the debt in hand to give them.
22. This was not the last time they harassed my family and [REDACTED]'s family. They stormed into my mother's house several times. When they came to my mother's house, they would threaten to do terrible things to torture my husband and me unless we gave them money. The threats were horrifying and very graphic; for example, they threatened to bring us to a remote location, tie us up, pour syrup over our bodies and then cover us in bees and other insects. They also used weapons like knives to make threatening gestures towards my family members.
23. They also repeatedly came to my [REDACTED]'s house, where my daughter currently lives. My daughter was terrified after those visits. Now she is very hesitant to go anywhere outside of home and school. After her school ends for the day, she will go straight back to my [REDACTED].
24. Currently, my ex-husband owes over [REDACTED], which is equivalent to more than [REDACTED] USD. Of course, he is incapable of paying back such an immense debt. Even now, although [REDACTED] and I are now divorced, I pay the loan sharks about [REDACTED] every month. The loan sharks still view us as married in [REDACTED] and they continue to target my family and me irrespective of the divorce we obtained in America. These small payments help put the loan sharks off for a little longer so they will not hurt my family in [REDACTED].
25. My marriage with [REDACTED] deteriorated soon after we came to the United States. He began to see other women, and he left me for somebody else in [REDACTED].
26. After he left me, I was alone. I had no friends of my own in [REDACTED], and I didn't have any money. In desperation, I borrowed money from one of my [REDACTED] to take a bus to [REDACTED]. My [REDACTED] had seen me

crying and decided to take pity on me, because he knew that my husband had abandoned me. I decided to travel to [REDACTED] because an [REDACTED] lived there. I had known her for more than [REDACTED] years after meeting her while working together in a restaurant in [REDACTED]. I trusted her to support me as I recovered from my husband's abandonment.

My Trafficking Experience

27. I arrived in [REDACTED] in approximately [REDACTED], and I began searching for work. I needed to support myself, and at the same time send money back to [REDACTED] to my family. I found jobs at a grocery store and then a restaurant, but the pay was very low, so I asked around for other job openings.
28. A couple of months after I began working at the restaurant, I met a woman who went by the name [REDACTED] at an outing with friends. She was very warm and friendly to me, and when she learned that I was searching for other jobs, she began telling me about the massage industry. According to [REDACTED] the tips were great, and business was booming. My income would be very high, much higher than my current income, and best of all, I would not be hampered by my [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] As she told me these things, I could feel myself becoming almost dizzy with hope. She told me that an added perk of working at the massage parlor was that it provided room and board. I would no longer need to pay rent for outside housing, and the job would allow me to support my family in [REDACTED].
29. [REDACTED] then told me that I would need to take massage classes before I could begin working. She asked me what I was currently making at the restaurant, and how much money I had saved up so far. I told her truthfully that I had been working there for several months now, but had only saved up [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] told me that was perfect—"coincidentally," the massage classes cost [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had been so nice to me so far, and she seemed to be friends with my other friends, so I saw no reason to be distrustful. I handed over all but [REDACTED] of my savings to her. She even wrote me a receipt!
30. Soon afterward, [REDACTED] took me to the massage parlor to begin my training. I spent one week watching her and other women give massages to customers. They taught me what I now realize were very basic massage techniques. During each session, there always came a point where the customer turned over, and I was told to leave. I didn't think anything of it—the masseuse would simply tell me that I could leave at that point, and they would call me back in if they needed anything.
31. After that first week, [REDACTED] told me that she needed to leave the parlor for a few days. I don't exactly remember what excuse she gave me—perhaps resting at home, or going to another store to cover another masseuse's shifts. I assumed that she would be back in a few days. But after that day, I never saw [REDACTED] again.

32. After [REDACTED] left, my coworker told me that I needed to start providing massages to customers myself. She was older than me, and I called her [REDACTED]. I went in and began massaging my first customer. But then he grabbed my hand and put it on his penis. I realized in horror that he was asking me for a hand job. I left the room immediately to ask [REDACTED] what was going on. She seemed surprised at my question. She asked me something like, "Didn't you know this was what was happening? Didn't [REDACTED] teach you anything?" She also told me that I was here to make money, and this is what I had to do. If I refused, [REDACTED] threatened that the customer would be angry and call the police on me, and I would be arrested and taken away.
33. In my head, my thoughts were jumbled. I felt extremely conflicted and frightened. How could this be? I had never imagined that [REDACTED]'s promises would lead to this. I had a very traditional upbringing, and I had never even imagined doing something like this before. I did not want to go back in that room, but I felt I had no choice. I told myself that I would simply get through this one customer and then call [REDACTED] to demand my money back.
34. When I tried to call [REDACTED] to ask her what was going on and try to get my money back, no one picked up. I felt hopeless. I wanted to leave the parlor, but I had no money left. That money meant my survival, and the safety of my family. I kept trying to call [REDACTED] repeatedly for almost a month, but nobody ever picked up. I think she had switched phone numbers.
35. [REDACTED] had deliberately tricked me and taken almost all of my savings. I had no money, no [REDACTED] ability, and no other options. I needed to make back the money I had given [REDACTED] so I could continue sending money to my family in [REDACTED] to support my daughter and make payments to the loan sharks.
36. [REDACTED] and the owner pressured me to continue providing sexual services to the customers. I never met the owner of the massage parlor, but [REDACTED] told me she monitored us through video cameras and through the customer log, so if a customer left without paying, I would need to make up the deficit. When I angered a customer by refusing to let them touch me, or take my clothing off, the boss always knew. She called the parlor phone, and [REDACTED] would pick up. [REDACTED] spoke the boss's [REDACTED], so she was the one who always told me what the boss wanted. That first day, when I ran out of the customer's room, the boss called [REDACTED] because she saw it on the camera. [REDACTED] relayed the boss's anger and said something like, "What else are you going to do? You have to keep the customer happy! You can't survive if you don't work!"
37. [REDACTED] often said threatening things to me. When I first arrived at the massage parlor, [REDACTED] took a photograph of my passport. I thought it was done as a normal employment procedure, but I later realized it was so she would know my personal information. She threatened to hurt my family and tell them that I was a prostitute in the United States. She also constantly talked about how the police could come

- and arrest me if an unhappy customer decided to call them. Hearing these threats made me feel anxious and upset all the time. I felt very withdrawn and isolated.
38. Customers paid a fee of \$60 an hour, but I could keep only the tips that they provided. Each day, I needed to service approximately three to six customers. These customers were often very violent and forceful, and they pressured me to do more than what we agreed. I have been strangled multiple times by violent customers.
 39. One of my first few customers became angry with me because I did not want to have sex with him. He pushed me off the massage bed, and I slammed my elbow against the wall. The surrounding area on my elbow became discolored and extremely swollen. I went to [REDACTED] for help afterward, but she didn't seem to care at all. I asked her to let me go see a doctor and get some medicine, but she told me that I was not allowed to leave the massage parlor. I was shocked. [REDACTED] told me that it was just one of the rules of working in the massage parlor.
 40. But after about a week, my arm was still not healing, so I begged [REDACTED] to let me at least purchase some medicine from the [REDACTED] store. It was only a block away. [REDACTED] finally agreed to let me go, but she required me to leave all of my belongings in the parlor, including my purse. She gave me thirty dollars in cash and let me go. I think she did not let me take anything because she was worried I would use this chance to escape. I couldn't go anywhere without my passport or wallet, and she knew that. This was the only time she let me leave the massage parlor during the months that I was there.
 41. Another time, a customer came in and demanded a hand job. I began to give him a hand job, but then he demanded to put his penis in between my thighs. I reluctantly agreed because I thought it would make him leave faster. But without warning he pushed me over violently and shoved my shoulders against the bed, and then penetrated me without a condom. I shouted "No," repeatedly, and called out to [REDACTED]. I tried to struggle, but I could not get free. Finally I was able to push him out, and he demanded a refund. It is hard for me to remember exactly what happened because I was in such a panic. I remember that [REDACTED] did not have much of a reaction. She did not seem concerned at all, and she treated the incident as normal.
 42. I was too afraid to call the police because of what [REDACTED] had told me about being arrested and deported. I was afraid that I would be deported, penniless, and be forced to face the loan sharks without any money to pay them. I felt so much regret and self-loathing. I could not go home to [REDACTED] yet I didn't even know English to work properly in America. Somehow I needed to make money to keep my family safe. I just didn't know what to do.

43. In [REDACTED] I was arrested by the police at the massage parlor. The arrest was a very frightening experience, but because of the arrest, I was able to escape from the massage parlor and find other work.
44. After this arrest, I was transferred to the [REDACTED] [REDACTED], and they connected me to Sanctuary for Families. I did not know that there were organizations out there that could help women like me. They told me that I was eligible for T nonimmigrant status, and they began helping me prepare to apply. Sanctuary for Families also helped me begin counseling. I have struggled with depression and anxiety after being trafficked, and these services have helped me begin to recover.

My Cooperation with Law Enforcement

45. On [REDACTED], I authorized my lawyer to report my trafficking experience to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. On [REDACTED] Mr. Carl J. Boykin, Director of Human Trafficking at the Division of Criminal Justice Services, confirmed in a letter that I am a victim of human trafficking under New York State Penal Law § 230.34.
46. In addition, I have met with federal law enforcement agents [REDACTED] to report my trafficking experience to them, and my lawyer has been in contact with them to provide any other information they might need.
47. On [REDACTED] I met with [REDACTED] at the Federal Bureau of Investigation offices in New York. They interviewed me for approximately three hours, and I answered all of their questions to the best of my ability.
48. On [REDACTED] I met with [REDACTED] a second time at the FBI offices in New York. This meeting took approximately two hours. They asked me many follow-up questions, and I gave them as much information as I could remember.
49. I have authorized my lawyer to comply with any requests for additional information from law enforcement. I remain eager to cooperate with them, and I very much hope my traffickers are brought to justice for what they did.

The Extreme Hardship I Would Face in [REDACTED]

50. I hope that I can remain in the United States because I would suffer extreme hardship if forced to return to [REDACTED]. The majority of my ex-husband's debt is still unpaid, and the loan sharks harassed and threatened my family multiple times searching for me. I fear that if I return without the money to pay back the debt, they will seriously hurt or even kill me. There is truly nowhere you can run, and no one

will help you, including the police, many of whom are corrupt and cooperate with loan sharks. Going back is a sure death sentence for me.

51. Because of my trafficking experience, I also would not be able to find the support I need in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is still extremely traditional and conservative when it comes to sex, especially in the countryside. I grew up in a very traditional household, and because of this, I have never been able to tell my family about my childhood sexual abuse. If my family had any idea about what happened to me in the United States, they would not even let me enter the front door. They would be furious and ashamed because to them, I have disgraced our ancestors. In [REDACTED] society, I would be discriminated against and condemned even though I am a victim. In contrast, in the United States, I have received supportive counseling to help deal with the lingering trauma from my trafficking experience. If I were returned to [REDACTED] I have no doubt that I would not be able to receive this kind of support to help me heal.
52. Part of this healing process has also been the opportunity to report my experiences to law enforcement in the United States. I very much hope that the FBI can investigate my traffickers and hold them accountable for their actions. If I am returned to [REDACTED] I would lose the opportunity to assist in any future investigations and seek justice for what happened to me.
53. I very much hope I can remain in the United States where I am safe and can continue to recover and rebuild my life.

[SEE FOLLOWING PAGE FOR SIGNATURE]

Wherefore, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED]

Sworn to and subscribed to before me
this ____ day of
_____ 20__

Notary Public

I, _____, certify that I am competent to translate English into [REDACTED]
and that I have read and translated this affidavit to [REDACTED]

Sworn to and subscribed to before me
this ____ day of
_____ 20__

Notary Public

**INDEX OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE
T NONIMMIGRANT STATUS APPLICATION OF
[REDACTED] (A# [REDACTED])**

		Document relates to:				
EXHIBIT #	Document	Victim of a Severe Form of Trafficking	Present in the United States on Account of Trafficking	Cooperation with Law Enforcement	Extreme Hardship of a Severe and Unusual Nature	Alien Information
1.	Affidavit of [REDACTED] describing her experiences as a victim of a severe form of trafficking, her presence in the United States on account of trafficking, her cooperation with law enforcement, and the extreme hardship she would face if removed	X	X	X	X	X
2.	Affidavit of [REDACTED] providing additional information in response to questions on Form I-914	X	X			X
3.	Affidavit of [REDACTED] providing additional information in response to questions on Form I-192	X	X	X	X	X
4.	Attorney Affidavit of [REDACTED] attesting to [REDACTED] cooperation with law enforcement agents, including copies of email correspondence with the Federal Bureau of Investigation	X	X	X		
5.	Copy of biographic pages of the [REDACTED] passport of [REDACTED]		X			X

		Document relates to:				
EXHIBIT #	Document	Victim of a Severe Form of Trafficking	Present in the United States on Account of Trafficking	Cooperation with Law Enforcement	Extreme Hardship of a Severe and Unusual Nature	Alien Information
6.	Copy of birth certificate of [REDACTED] with certified English translation					X
7.	Certificates of Disposition from [REDACTED] Criminal Court showing that all charges in relation to her [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrests have been dismissed and sealed					X
8.	Letter from New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to New York State Office of Temporary Disability and Assistance, Notice of Confirmation as a Human Trafficking Victim in New York State	X		X		
9.	Letter of Support from [REDACTED] former Case Manager at Sanctuary for Families	X	X		X	X
10.	Polaris Project, June 1, 2018, "Human trafficking in massage parlors: a deeply manipulated sense of choice."	X				
11.	Polaris Project, January 2018, "Human Trafficking in Illicit Massage Businesses: Executive Summary."	X				

		Document relates to:				
EXHIBIT #	Document	Victim of a Severe Form of Trafficking	Present in the United States on Account of Trafficking	Cooperation with Law Enforcement	Extreme Hardship of a Severe and Unusual Nature	Alien Information
12.	National Human Trafficking Resource Center Fact Sheet: Fake Massage Businesses	X				
13.	Polaris Project Fact Sheet: ██████ Massage Parlors in the United States	X				
14.	2017 World Health Organization (“WHO”) Mental Health Atlas Profile for ██████ with 2017 WHO Mental Health Atlas Profile for United States for comparison				X	
15.	Sarah Johnson, “Millions of people with mental illnesses in ██████ and ██████ going untreated, study finds,” <i>The Guardian</i> (May 18, 2016).				X	
16.	I-Ting Shelly Lin, “The Mental Healthcare Industry in ██████ ██████ <i>Briefing</i> (June 12, 2018).				X	
17.	Johan Nylander, ██████ mental health care system is lacking,” <i>CNN</i> (May 6, 2014).				X	
18.	2018 Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report on ██████ indicating Tier 3 Classification				X	

		Document relates to:				
EXHIBIT #	Document	Victim of a Severe Form of Trafficking	Present in the United States on Account of Trafficking	Cooperation with Law Enforcement	Extreme Hardship of a Severe and Unusual Nature	Alien Information
19.	Zoe Loe, "Loan shark gets 14 years for raping victim who couldn't pay," [REDACTED] <i>Morning Post</i> (Dec. 12, 2018).				X	
20.	"Killing draws attention to struggling counties plagued by debt violence," <i>Global Times</i> (Mar. 28, 2016).				X	
21.	"How [REDACTED] debt collectors go to work," <i>Global Times</i> (June 20, 2016).				X	

Part 2. Information About You (Requestor) (continued)

7. Marital Status

- Single, Never Married
 Married
 Divorced
 Widowed
 Marriage Annulled
 Separated
 Other (Explain)

Part 3. Applications and Petitions for Which You Are Requesting a Fee Waiver

1. In the table below, add the form numbers of the applications and petitions for which you are requesting a fee waiver.

Applications or Petitions for You and Your Family Members					
Full Name	A-Number (if any)	Date of Birth	Relationship to You	Forms Being Filed	
[REDACTED]	A- [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	A- [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
	A-				
	A-				
Total Number of Forms (including self)				3	

Part 4. Means-Tested Benefits

If you selected **Item Number 1.** in **Part 1.**, complete this section.

1. If you, your spouse, or the head of household (including parent if the child is under 21 years of age) living with you is receiving any means-tested benefits, list the information in the table below and attach supporting documentation. If you are the parent or legal guardian filing on behalf of a child or person with a physical disability or developmental or mental impairment, provide information about the child or person for whom you are filing this form if he or she is receiving a means-tested benefit.

Means-Tested Benefit Recipients					
Full Name of Person Receiving the Benefit	Relationship to You	Name of Agency Awarding Benefit	Type of Benefit	Date Benefit was Awarded	Date Benefit Expires (or must be renewed)

Part 5. Income at or Below 150 Percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

If you selected **Item Number 2.** in **Part 1.**, complete this section.

Your Employment Status

1. Employment Status

- Employed (full-time, part-time, seasonal, self-employed)
 Unemployed or Not Employed
 Retired
 Other (Explain) Full-time Student/Summer employe

Part 5. Income at or Below 150 Percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (continued)

2. If you are currently unemployed, are you currently receiving unemployment benefits? Yes No

A. Date you became unemployed
(mm/dd/yyyy)

Information About Your Spouse

3. If you are married or separated, does your spouse live in your household? Yes No

A. If you answered "No" to **Item Number 3.**, does your spouse provide any financial support to your household? Yes No

Your Household Size

4. Are you the person providing the primary financial support for your household? Yes No

If you answered "Yes" to **Item Number 4.**, type or print your name on the line marked "self" in the table below. If you answered "No" to **Item Number 4.**, type or print your name on the line marked "self" in the table below and add the head of household's name on the line below yours.

Household Size					
Full Name	Date of Birth	Relationship to You	Married	Full-Time Student	Is any income earned by this person counted towards the household income?
██████████	██████████	Self	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
██████████	██████████	Mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Total Household Size (including self)					2

Your Annual Household Income

Provide information about your income and the income of all family members counted as part of your household. You must list all amounts in U.S. dollars.

5. Your Annual Income \$

6. Annual Income of All Family Members
Provide the annual income of all family members counted as part of your household as listed in **Item Number 4.** (Do not include the amount provided in **Item Number 5.**) \$

7. Total Additional Income or Financial Support \$

Provide the total annual amount you receive in additional income or financial support from a source outside of your household. (Do not include the amount provided in **Item Numbers 5.** or **6.**) You must add all of the additional income and financial support amounts and put the total amount in the space provided. Type or print "0" in the total box if there are none. Select the type of additional income or financial support that you receive and provide documentation.

- Parental Support
- Educational Stipends
- Unemployment Benefits
- Financial Support From Adult Children, Dependents, Other People Living in the Household
- Spousal Support (Alimony)
- Royalties
- Social Security Benefits
- Child Support
- Pensions
- Veteran's Benefits
- Other (Explain)

Part 5. Income at or Below 150 Percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (continued)

8. Total Household Income (add the amounts from **Item Numbers 5., 6., and 7.**) \$ **27,000.00**
9. Has anything changed since the date you filed your Federal tax returns? (For example, your marital status, income, or number of dependents.) Yes No

If you answered "Yes" to **Item Number 9.**, provide an explanation below. Provide documentation if available. You may also use this space to provide any additional information about your circumstances that you would like USCIS to consider.

I escaped my sex trafficker in [REDACTED] 2021 when I was 17. I am now a full time student, and have no savings. I live with my mother, who works doing occasional odd jobs. My mother's income (~\$2000 per month) pays our rent (\$1000/mo.), cell phones (\$79/mo.), food (\$150/mo.) and laundromat (\$80/mo.). I earned \$3000 this summer, but I will stop working when school resumes. We cannot pay for our I-192 applications and my mom's I-765 application. See affidavit from my case manager at an anti-trafficking NGO.

Part 6. Financial Hardship

If you selected **Item Number 3.** in **Part 1.**, complete this section.

1. If you or any family members have a situation that has caused you to incur expenses, debts, or loss of income, describe the situation in the box below. Specify the amounts of the expenses, debts, and income losses in as much detail as possible. Examples may include medical expenses, job loss, eviction, and homelessness.

I am a survivor of sex trafficking and law enforcement helped me escape my trafficker in [REDACTED] 2021. I was 17 years old and I left with nothing. Since escaping my trafficker, I lived in shelters, but recently had to move out because I turned 18. I am now a full time student, and I live with my mother who is unemployed, except for odd jobs here and there. I depend on my mother's income (\$2000 per month approx.) and the assistance that I received from an anti-trafficking nonprofit, Sanctuary for Families. I am a minor and my trafficking situation left me without any savings. My mother struggles to support both of us, and we are barely getting by. Please see attached affidavit from my case manager.

2. If you have cash or assets that you can quickly convert to cash, list those in the table below. For example, bank accounts, stocks, or bonds. (Do not include retirement accounts.)

Assets	
Type of Asset	Value (U.S. Dollars)
none	0.00
Total Value of Assets	0.00

Part 6. Financial Hardship (continued)

3. Total Monthly Expenses and Liabilities \$ **1,310.00**

Provide the total monthly amount of your expenses and liabilities. You must add all of the expense and liability amounts and type or print the total amount in the space provided. Type or print "0" in the total box if there are none. Select the types of expenses or liabilities you have each month and provide evidence of monthly payments, where possible.

- Rent and/or Mortgage Loans and/or Credit Cards Other
- Food Car Payment
- Utilities Commuting Costs
- Child and/or Elder Care Medical Expenses
- Insurance School Expenses

Part 7. Requestor's Statement, Contact Information, Certification, and Signature

NOTE: Read the **Penalties** section of the Form I-912 Instructions before completing this part.

Each person applying for a fee waiver request must complete, sign, and date Form I-912 and provide the required documentation. This includes family members identified in **Part 3**. Signature fields for family members are at the end of this part. If an individual is under 14 years of age, a parent or legal guardian may sign the request on their behalf. USCIS rejects any Form I-912 that is not signed by all individuals requesting a fee waiver and may deny a request that does not provide required documentation.

Select the box for either **Item A.** or **B.** in **Item Number 1.** If applicable, select the box for **Item Number 2.**

1. Requestor's Statement Regarding the Interpreter

- A. I can read and understand English, and I have read and understand every question and instruction on this request and my answer to every question.
- B. The interpreter named in **Part 9**, read to me every question and instruction on this request and my answer to every question in **Spanish**, a language in which I am fluent, and I understood everything.

2. Requestor's Statement Regarding the Preparer (if applicable)

- At my request, the preparer named in **Part 10**, [REDACTED], prepared this request for me based only upon information I provided or authorized.

Requestor's Contact Information

- 3. Requestor's Daytime Telephone Number [REDACTED]
- 4. Requestor's Mobile Telephone Number (if any) **(917) 340-3206**
- 5. Requestor's Email Address (if any) [REDACTED]

Requestor's Certification

Copies of any documents I have submitted are exact photocopies of unaltered, original documents, and I understand that USCIS may require that I submit original documents to USCIS at a later date. Furthermore, I authorize the release of any information from any of my records that USCIS may need to determine my eligibility for the immigration benefit I seek.

I further authorize release of information contained in this request, in supporting documents, and in my USCIS records to other entities and persons where necessary for the administration and enforcement of U.S. immigration laws.

I certify, under penalty of perjury, that I provided or authorized all of the information in my request, I understand all of the information contained in, and submitted with, my request, and that all of this information is complete, true, and correct.

Part 7. Requestor's Statement, Contact Information, Certification, and Signature (continued)

WARNING: If you knowingly and willfully falsify or conceal a material fact or submit a false document with your Form I-912, USCIS will deny your fee waiver request and may deny any other immigration benefit. In addition, you may face severe penalties provided by law and may be subject to criminal prosecution.

Requestor's Signature

6. Requestor's Signature Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)
➔

NOTE TO ALL REQUESTORS: If you do not completely fill out this request or fail to submit required documents listed in the Instructions, USCIS may deny your request.

Family Members' Signatures

NOTE: Each family member **must** type or print their full name and sign in the spaces below. You can find additional family members' signature spaces in **Item Numbers 7. - 10.** below. All family members identified in **Part 3.** must sign and date Form I-912.

I certify that the information provided by the requestor in **Part 7.** applies to me.

7. Family Member 1

Family Member's Name

Family Member's Signature

Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)

8. Family Member 2

Family Member's Name

Family Member's Signature

Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)

9. Family Member 3

Family Member's Name

Family Member's Signature

Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)

10. Family Member 4

Family Member's Name

Family Member's Signature

Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)

11. Family Member 5

Family Member's Name

Family Member's Signature

Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)

Part 8. Family Member's Statement, Contact Information, Certification, and Signature

NOTE: Read the **Penalties** section of the Form I-912 Instructions before completing this part.

If the information provided by the requestor in **Part 7** is not applicable to a family member identified in **Part 3**, (for example, the family member used an interpreter or speaks a different language) that individual should complete **Part 8**. USCIS rejects any Form I-912 that is not signed by all individuals requesting a fee waiver.

Select the box for either **Item A.** or **B.** in **Item Number 1.** If applicable, select the box for **Item Number 2.**

1. Family Member's Statement Regarding the Interpreter for

- A. I can read and understand English, and I have read and understand every question and instruction on this request and my answer to every question.
- B. The interpreter named in **Part 9**, read to me every question and instruction on this request and my answer to every question in , a language in which I am fluent, and I understood everything.

2. Family Member's Statement Regarding the Preparer for

- At my request, the preparer named in **Part 10**, , prepared this request for me based only upon information I provided or authorized.

Family Member's Contact Information

3. Family Member's Daytime Telephone Number

4. Family Member's Mobile Telephone Number (if any)

(917) 340-3206

5. Family Member's Email Address (if any)

Family Member's Certification

Copies of any documents I have submitted are exact photocopies of unaltered, original documents, and I understand that USCIS may require that I submit original documents to USCIS at a later date. Furthermore, I authorize the release of any information from any of my records that USCIS may need to determine my eligibility for the immigration benefit I seek.

I further authorize release of information contained in this request, in supporting documents, and in my USCIS records to other entities and persons where necessary for the administration and enforcement of U.S. immigration laws.

I certify, under penalty of perjury, that I provided or authorized all of the information in my request, I understand all of the information contained in, and submitted with, my request, and that all of this information is complete, true, and correct.

Family Member's Signature

6. Family Member's Signature

Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)

➔

NOTE TO ALL FAMILY MEMBERS: If you do not completely fill out this request or fail to submit required documents listed in the Instructions, USCIS may deny your request.

Part 9. Interpreter's Contact Information, Certification, and Signature

1. Did any person filing this request use an interpreter? Yes, (complete this section) No (skip to **Part 10.**)
2. Was the same interpreter used for all individuals requesting a fee waiver (as listed in **Part 3.**)? Yes No

NOTE for Family Members: If you used a different interpreter than the one used by the requestor, make additional copies of **Part 9.**, provide the following information, indicate the family member for whom he or she interpreted, and include the pages with your completed Form I-912.

Provide the following information about the interpreter for

Interpreter's Full Name

3. Interpreter's Family Name (Last Name) Interpreter's Given Name (First Name)
4. Interpreter's Business or Organization Name (if any)

Interpreter's Mailing Address

[\(USPS ZIP Code Lookup\)](#)

5. Street Number and Name Apt. Ste. Flr. Number
- City or Town State ZIP Code
- Province Postal Code Country

Interpreter's Contact Information

6. Interpreter's Daytime Telephone Number
7. Interpreter's Mobile Telephone Number (if any)
8. Interpreter's Email Address (if any)

Interpreter's Certification

I certify, under penalty of perjury, that:

I am fluent in English and , which is the same language specified in **Part 7., Item B.** in **Item Number 1.**, and I have read to this requestor in the identified language every question and instruction on this request and his or her answer to every question. The requestor informed me that he or she understands every instruction, question, and answer on the request, including the **Applicant's Certification**, and has verified the accuracy of every answer.

Interpreter's Signature

9. Interpreter's Signature Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)

Part 10. Contact Information, Declaration, and Signature of the Person Preparing this Request, if Other Than the Requestor

1. Did any person prepare this request on your behalf? Yes, (complete this section) No, skip
2. Was the same preparer used for all individuals requesting a fee waiver (as listed in **Part 3.**)? Yes No

NOTE for Family Members: If you used a different preparer than the one used by the requestor, provide the following information, and include the pages with your completed Form I-912.

Provide the following information about the preparer for

Preparer's Full Name

3. Preparer's Family Name (Last Name) Preparer's Given Name (First Name)
4. Preparer's Business or Organization Name (if any)

Preparer's Mailing Address

5. Street Number and Name Apt. Ste. Flr. Number
- City or Town State ZIP Code
- Province Postal Code Country

Preparer's Contact Information

6. Preparer's Daytime Telephone Number
7. Preparer's Mobile Telephone Number (if any)
8. Preparer's Email Address (if any)

Preparer's Statement

9. A. I am not an attorney or accredited representative but have prepared this request on behalf of the requestor and with the requestor's consent.
- B. I am an attorney or accredited representative and my representation of the requestor in this case extends does not extend beyond the preparation of this request.

NOTE: If you are an attorney or accredited representative, you may be obliged to submit a completed Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney or Accredited Representative, or G-28I, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney In Matters Outside the Geographical Confines of the United States, with this request.

Part 10. Contact Information, Declaration, and Signature of the Person Preparing this Request, if Other Than the Requestor (continued)


Preparer's Certification

By my signature, I certify, under penalty of perjury, that I prepared this request at the request of the requestor. The requestor then reviewed this completed request and informed me that he or she understands all of the information contained in, and submitted with, his or her request, including the **Applicant's Certification**, and that all of this information is complete, true, and correct. I completed this request based only on information that the requestor provided to me or authorized me to obtain or use.

Preparer's Signature

10. Preparer's Signature

Date of Signature (mm/dd/yyyy)

		
--	--	--

Part 11. Additional Information

If you need extra space to provide any additional information within this request, use the space below. If you need more space than what is provided, you may make copies of this page to complete and file with this request or attach a separate sheet of paper. Include your name and A-Number (if any) at the top of each sheet; indicate the **Page Number**, **Part Number**, and **Item Number** to which your answer refers.

1. Family Name (Last Name) Given Name (First Name) Middle Name

2. A-Number (if any) ▶ A-

2	0	1	4	4	5	4	0	4
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3. A. Page Number B. Part Number C. Item Number

D. My full name is . My mother's full name is

4. A. Page Number B. Part Number C. Item Number

D. My full name is . My mother's full name is

5. A. Page Number B. Part Number C. Item Number

D.

6. A. Page Number B. Part Number C. Item Number

D.



CBWLS
30 Wall Street, 8th Fl.
New York, NY 10005
Tel: 212.349.6009
Fax: 212.566.0344
sanctuaryforfamilies.org

██████████ 2022

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Executive Director

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**in memoriam*

Dear USCIS Officer:

My name is ██████████. I am a Case Manager at the Anti-Trafficking Initiative at Sanctuary for Families and submit this letter in support of ██████████ application for a Fee Waiver. In my professional opinion as a case manager and having worked with Ms. ██████████ for approximately 10 months, I can attest to Ms. ██████████ income under 150% of the federal poverty guidelines, financial hardship and lack of resources to pay the fees associated with the above-mentioned application.

Established in 1984, Sanctuary for Families (“Sanctuary”) is a registered tax-exempt 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization located in New York, NY that represents survivors of gender violence and human trafficking. Sanctuary for Families provides legal representation, case management, and counseling, among other services, to survivors that have experienced any form of gender violence, and that are low income or indigent.

I hold a Bachelors’ degree from the ██████████. I am a Case Manager and have been working with survivors of human trafficking for two years. The goal of case management is to ensure safety and help survivors coordinate resources as needed, including navigating legal systems, helping financial needs, housing and providing emotional support.

Ms. ██████████ first came to Sanctuary on November 2021, and has been receiving legal services and case management since. Ms. ██████████ was 17 years old at the time and had just escaped her trafficker with the assistance of law enforcement. Ms. ██████████ had been admitted into a family shelter, along with her mother, to assure their safety from the trafficker. Neither Ms. ██████████ nor her mother had savings, stable work or any other means to obtain housing on their own after Ms. ██████████ trafficker brought them both to the United States and sold Ms. ██████████ for sex as a minor. Therefore, Ms. ██████████ qualified for Sanctuary services as an indigent/ low income survivor of human trafficking.

My case management services focused on meeting Ms. ██████████ with her basic and practical needs, such as living costs and enrolling her in school. Sanctuary for Families is one of the grantees of the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP) under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which enables the survivors of trafficking who are pursuing immigration relief to receive financial assistance.



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30 Wall Street, 8th Fl.
New York, NY 10005
Tel: 212.349.6009
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sanctuaryforfamilies.org

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**in memoriam*

Unfortunately, Ms. [REDACTED] will not meet TVAP criteria for certification letter and the associated benefits until she receives a determination from USCIS that her application for T nonimmigrant status is granted.

Sanctuary for Families was able to get confirmation for Ms. [REDACTED] as a human trafficking victim from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, in consultation with the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). As such, she has received periodic assistance in the form of gift cards over the past months corresponding to a total amount of \$1450 to purchase personal care items and food.

Based on an assessment of her financial needs conducted by a case manager, neither Ms. [REDACTED] nor her mother, [REDACTED] with whom she lives, are able to afford basic necessities and Sanctuary has been providing Ms. [REDACTED] with food, clothing, personal care items, school supplies, and furniture, for the past ten months.

Ms. [REDACTED] has been a full time high school student since December 2021. Currently she is in 10th grade at Lower East Side Preparatory High School, 145 Stanton Street, New York, NY 10002. During the academic year, Ms. [REDACTED] is unable to work as her studies occupy most of her time. In addition to her full-time studies, Ms. [REDACTED] is engaged in therapy with one of Sanctuary's counselors to process and heal the trauma she experienced. The latter also restrains her ability to work during the academic year. While school was out for the summer, Ms. [REDACTED] worked at a deli and a pharmacy to contribute what she could to her household. She received approximately \$3,000 for her work during the whole summer, while she was on the academic break. Therefore, her contributions to the family's expenses are minimal and temporary.

Ms. [REDACTED] lives with her mother, [REDACTED] (Ms. [REDACTED]). Her mother is unemployed, except for sporadic babysitting services. Given the irregular nature of Ms. [REDACTED] employment, she is unable to provide a letter from an employer attesting to her earnings, and has not received pay stubs. However, Ms. [REDACTED] has attested to the fact that she only earns about \$2,000 a month. This income of approximately \$27,000 for a household of two, is under 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (\$27,465).

Ms. [REDACTED] income is used to pay for the room Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] share, as they could not continue living in the family shelter once Ms. [REDACTED] turned 18 years old. In addition to rent, Ms. [REDACTED] has



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the additional reoccurring monthly costs, including \$79 (cell phone bills), \$150 (food), and \$80 (laundromat).

Because of the above, Ms. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] income is below the 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and both of them experience financial hardship. As a result, neither Ms. [REDACTED] nor Ms. [REDACTED] have enough money to pay for the filing fees for their respective Forms I-192 (\$1,860, e/a \$930), and Form I-765 (\$410) for Ms. [REDACTED]. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you grant the fee waiver for Ms. [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Case Manager, Anti-Trafficking Initiative
Sanctuary for Families
30 Wall St, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10005
T: [REDACTED]
F: [REDACTED]

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Catherine Woodman

**in memoriam*



AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF HEALTH INFORMATION PURSUANT TO HIPAA

[This form has been approved by the New York State Department of Health]

Patient Name	Date of Birth	Social Security Number
Patient Address		

I, or my authorized representative, request that health information regarding my care and treatment be released as set forth on this form: In accordance with New York State Law and the Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), I understand that:

1. This authorization may include disclosure of information relating to **ALCOHOL** and **DRUG ABUSE, MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT**, except psychotherapy notes, and **CONFIDENTIAL HIV* RELATED INFORMATION** only if I place my initials on the appropriate line in Item 9(a). In the event the health information described below includes any of these types of information, and I initial the line on the box in Item 9(a), I specifically authorize release of such information to the person(s) indicated in Item 8.
2. If I am authorizing the release of HIV-related, alcohol or drug treatment, or mental health treatment information, the recipient is prohibited from redisclosing such information without my authorization unless permitted to do so under federal or state law. I understand that I have the right to request a list of people who may receive or use my HIV-related information without authorization. If I experience discrimination because of the release or disclosure of HIV-related information, I may contact the New York State Division of Human Rights at (212) 480-2493 or the New York City Commission of Human Rights at (212) 306-7450. These agencies are responsible for protecting my rights.
3. I have the right to revoke this authorization at any time by writing to the health care provider listed below. I understand that I may revoke this authorization except to the extent that action has already been taken based on this authorization.
4. I understand that signing this authorization is voluntary. My treatment, payment, enrollment in a health plan, or eligibility for benefits will not be conditioned upon my authorization of this disclosure.
5. Information disclosed under this authorization might be redisclosed by the recipient (except as noted above in Item 2), and this redisclosure may no longer be protected by federal or state law.
6. **THIS AUTHORIZATION DOES NOT AUTHORIZE YOU TO DISCUSS MY HEALTH INFORMATION OR MEDICAL CARE WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN THE ATTORNEY OR GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY SPECIFIED IN ITEM 9 (b).**

7. Name and address of health provider or entity to release this information:

8. Name and address of person(s) or category of person to whom this information will be sent:

9(a). Specific information to be released:

Medical Record from (insert date) _____ to (insert date) _____

Entire Medical Record, including patient histories, office notes (except psychotherapy notes), test results, radiology studies, films, referrals, consults, billing records, insurance records, and records sent to you by other health care providers.

Other: _____ Include: (Indicate by Initialing)

_____ **Alcohol/Drug Treatment**

_____ **Mental Health Information**

_____ **HIV-Related Information**

Authorization to Discuss Health Information

(b) By initialing here _____ I authorize _____

Initials Name of individual health care provider

to discuss my health information with my attorney, or a governmental agency, listed here:

(Attorney/Firm Name or Governmental Agency Name)

10. Reason for release of information: <input type="checkbox"/> At request of individual <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	11. Date or event on which this authorization will expire:
12. If not the patient, name of person signing form:	13. Authority to sign on behalf of patient:

All items on this form have been completed and my questions about this form have been answered. In addition, I have been provided a copy of the form.

Signature of patient or representative authorized by law. Date: _____

* Human Immunodeficiency Virus that causes AIDS. The New York State Public Health Law protects information which reasonably could identify someone as having HIV symptoms or infection and information regarding a person's contacts.

Instructions for the Use
of the HIPAA-compliant Authorization Form to
Release Health Information Needed for Litigation

This form is the product of a collaborative process between the New York State Office of Court Administration, representatives of the medical provider community in New York, and the bench and bar, designed to produce a standard official form that complies with the privacy requirements of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”) and its implementing regulations, to be used to authorize the release of health information needed for litigation in New York State courts. It can, however, be used more broadly than this and be used before litigation has been commenced, or whenever counsel would find it useful.

The goal was to produce a standard HIPAA-compliant official form to obviate the current disputes which often take place as to whether health information requests made in the course of litigation meet the requirements of the HIPAA Privacy Rule. It should be noted, though, that the form is optional. This form may be filled out on line and downloaded to be signed by hand, or downloaded and filled out entirely on paper.

When filing out Item 11, which requests the date or event when the authorization will expire, the person filling out the form may designate an event such as “at the conclusion of my court case” or provide a specific date amount of time, such as “3 years from this date”.

If a patient seeks to authorize the release of his or her entire medical record, but only from a certain date, the first two boxes in section 9(a) should both be checked, and the relevant date inserted on the first line containing the first box.

**INDEX OF DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF
T NONIMMIGRANT STATUS-FORM I-914
[REDACTED] (D.O.B. [REDACTED]/[REDACTED])**

USCIS Forms

Exhibit No.	Document
1.	Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance of Attorney, [REDACTED] on behalf of [REDACTED]
2.	Form I-914, Application for T Nonimmigrant Status
3.	Form I-192, Application for Advance Permission to Enter the U.S.
4.	Form I-912, Application for Fee Waiver

Identification Documents

Exhibit No.	Document
5.	Birth Certificate of [REDACTED] (born as [REDACTED]), and certified translation.
6.	Valid Mexican Passport of [REDACTED]
7.	New York Identification Card [REDACTED]
8.	Civil Court of the City of New York, Order Granting Name Change from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED], dated [REDACTED].

Proof of Victim of Severe Form of Trafficking in Persons

Exhibit No.	Document
9.	Personal Statement of [REDACTED], dated [REDACTED].
10.	Photos of scars and marks [REDACTED] sustained from the abuse endured by his trafficker, [REDACTED].
11.	Order of Protection issued by the Bronx Family Court in 2004 to protect [REDACTED] from his trafficker, [REDACTED], after he escaped from her.
12.	Google Maps screenshots of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] first home, located at [REDACTED], where she initially harbored [REDACTED] for labor. • [REDACTED] second home, located at [REDACTED], where she continued to harbor [REDACTED] for labor. • Corner of [REDACTED] St. & [REDACTED] St., The Bronx, NY, where [REDACTED] compelled [REDACTED] to sell merchandise on the street without pay.
13.	Letter of Support from [REDACTED], a street vendor who intervened to help [REDACTED] escape from [REDACTED], dated [REDACTED]
14.	Letter of Support from [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s chosen "mother" and friend, with whom he lives, dated [REDACTED]

15.	Letter of Support from Dr. [REDACTED], Montefiore LGBTQ Clinic, who provides gender-affirming care to [REDACTED], dated [REDACTED].
16.	Letter from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services and New York Office of Temporary Disability Assistance certifying that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the criteria for confirmation as a human trafficking victim in New York State, dated [REDACTED].

Proof of Presence on Account of Trafficking

Exhibit No.	Document
See above, Exhibit 9.	Personal Statement of [REDACTED]
17.	Letter of Support from [REDACTED], Case Manager Restore NYC, a nonprofit organization that provides holistic case management services to survivors of human trafficking.

Proof of Law Enforcement Cooperation

Exhibit No.	Document
See above, Exhibit 9.	Personal Statement of [REDACTED]
18.	Attorney affidavit describing [REDACTED]'s cooperation with law enforcement, and email correspondence from law enforcement.

Proof of Extreme Hardship if Returned to Mexico

Exhibit No.	Document
See above, Exhibit 9.	Personal Statement of [REDACTED]
See above, Exhibit 13.	Letter of Support from [REDACTED], a street vendor who intervened to help [REDACTED] escape from [REDACTED].
See above, exhibit 17.	Letter of Support from [REDACTED], Case Manager Restore NYC, a nonprofit organization that provides holistic case management services to survivors of human trafficking.
19.	2022 U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Personas Report, Mexico Excerpt
20.	2022 Human Rights Watch Country Summary Report for Mexico
21.	UCLA School of Law, <i>Public Opinion of Transgender Rights in Mexico</i> , December 2020.
22.	Lopez, Oscar, REUTERS, <i>Mexico sees deadliest year for LGBT+ people in five years</i> , May 15, 2020

**INDEX OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE
T NONIMMIGRANT STATUS PETITION
OF ██████████, A#123-456-789**

		Document relates to:				
Exhibit #	Document	Victim of a Severe Form of Trafficking	Present in the United States on Account of Trafficking	Compliance with Reasonable Requests from Law Enforcement	Extreme Hardship of a Severe and Unusual Nature	Alien Information
1.	Affidavit of ██████████ describing her experiences as a victim of a severe form of trafficking, her presence in the United States on account of trafficking, her compliance with requests from law enforcement, and the extreme hardship she would face if removed	X	X	X	X	X
2.	Form I-914, Supplement B, Declaration of Law Enforcement Officer for Victim of Trafficking in Persons, signed by ██████████ Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York	X	X	X	X	X
3.	Affidavit of ██████████ r with an explanation to “yes” and “unclear” answers on Form I-914	X				X

		Document relates to:				
Exhibit #	Document	Victim of a Severe Form of Trafficking	Present in the United States on Account of Trafficking	Compliance with Reasonable Requests from Law Enforcement	Extreme Hardship of a Severe and Unusual Nature	Alien Information
4.	Affidavit of ██████ supporting her request on Form I-192 for the positive exercise of discretion	X	X			X
5.	Notice of Action indicating Approval of the Form I-102 for Continued Presence for ██████	X	X	X		X
6.	Copy of the Employment Authorization Document issued to ██████ based on a grant of Continued Presence	X	X	X		X
7.	Letter from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services certifying ██████ as a victim of human trafficking	X	X	X		X
8.	Letter from ██████, MSW describing therapy provided to ██████ noting that ██████ disclosed a history of sex trafficking	X	X		X	X
9.	Letter from ██████, M. D., diagnosing ██████ as suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	X	X		X	X

		Document relates to:				
Exhibit #	Document	Victim of a Severe Form of Trafficking	Present in the United States on Account of Trafficking	Compliance with Reasonable Requests from Law Enforcement	Extreme Hardship of a Severe and Unusual Nature	Alien Information
10.	Letter from Restore trafficking safe house concerning services provided to [REDACTED]	X	X		X	X
11.	Copy of the identity page of the Mexican passport of [REDACTED]					X
12.	HSTC Intelligence Note: Tenancingo Bulletin #1: The Anatomy of a Trafficking Ring: Origins and Recruitment	X			X	
13.	Huffington Post, Mexican Women Forced Into U.S. Prostitution by Pimps	X			X	
14.	United States Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report 2011, Mexico, designating Mexico as a Tier 2 Country (June 2011).	X			X	

6. My daughter [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED]. To support myself and [REDACTED], I began working as a waitress in a local restaurant. I believe it was around [REDACTED] when I first met a man who called himself [REDACTED]. He came to the restaurant as a customer and ate lunch. As I waited on him, he asked me my name and flirted with me. When paying his check, he said he could tell I was a nice person and asked me to go out with him on a date. Although he was very handsome and seemed nice, I quickly refused. I am a shy person by nature and felt funny about going on a date with a stranger.
7. After that day, this man came back to the restaurant about 7 or 8 times over the course of a month. During these visits he made sure that I was his waitress and asked me questions about myself. He asked about my family, where I lived and what I did when I was not working. It was obvious he was flirting with me and I was flattered by his attention. I never imagined the life he would lead me to.
8. One day in [REDACTED] this man who called himself [REDACTED] waited outside of the restaurant where I worked and stopped me as I left at the end of my shift. He begged me to go out with him. He said he was falling in love with me. He had been so persistent in coming back to see me, it did seem like he was interested. I was very attracted to him too. Not only was he handsome, I also liked the way he talked. He seemed like a confident, centered person so I agreed to a date. A few days later we went to a café. We ate lunch and talked about our lives. He told me that he was from [REDACTED] and that he had a job that involved buying and selling factory equipment.
9. I now suspect that this man's true name is not [REDACTED]. I never saw any identification of his, but at the time, I believed it to be his name. We went on a few dates and I developed strong feelings for [REDACTED]. When we were together, he treated me like a princess. Unlike other men I had dated, he did not mind that I had a daughter. In fact, each time we went out he asked me about [REDACTED] and once bought a doll for her as a present. When I asked to meet his family, he told me he had none. I thought this was strange, but I imagined that something bad might have happened to his family. I let it go.
10. Around [REDACTED] [REDACTED] left Puebla for about six months. At the time I thought it had to do with his job, but now I suspect this was not true. He said he was in the city of [REDACTED] but he called me regularly on the phone. He told me he was very busy with work, but that I was always on his mind.
11. When [REDACTED] finally returned to [REDACTED], he came to my house. I was not expecting him but was thrilled to see him. That day I introduced him to my parents and to my daughter [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] said he was still in love with me and that he could not bear to be apart from me again. That week we went out to dinner and went dancing.
12. After a few more dates, [REDACTED] proposed the idea of coming to the United States. He said he we could find jobs, make money, and eventually build a house in [REDACTED]. He told me my daughter would have a better life and would never lack anything. He also told me that he loved me and had loved me since the first time he saw me. I felt certain that everything he was telling me was true. I trusted him and felt excited about our future together.

13. My parents were surprised when I told them about this plan to go to the United States. They thought ██████ seemed like a good person but they were worried that we had not been dating for very long. I assured them that there was nothing to worry about. I really believed everything would be fine.

Entering the US, Traveling to New York City

14. I am unsure of the exact date, but I believe that ██████ and I left ██████ in ██████. We first took a bus from ██████ to ██████. We then took a flight from ██████ to ██████. When we arrived in ██████ there were people waiting for us with a van near the airport. The van drove us about three or four hours to a small house with many beds inside. I think it may have been near the ██████ town of ██████. I seem to remember hearing someone mention ██████.

15. Once we arrived at this house, ██████ went out and bought us water and fruit in preparation for ██████ the United States. We set out later that night ██████. The group was mostly men, with just one woman other than me. A young guy who was called ██████ led the way.

16. All together ██████ I was exhausted and very afraid. I had heard so many stories about bad things happening to people ██████

17. Eventually we arrived at place that I believe was in the United States where there were two vans and a small car waiting. We were taken to a house where we were able to shower and rest. ██████ knew some people in the house. I knew that he had traveled to the United States before and it made me feel good that he knew the way. We spent the night in the house and left the next day in a van. I think it was a group of nine of us who were sent in the van, which drove towards New York City.

18. When we arrived in New York City, the van dropped me and ██████ in ██████ where a friend of ██████ met us. ██████'s friend, whose name I do not know, took us to a room on the first floor of a house in ██████. It wasn't even a full apartment—just a mattress on a floor in a space. It seemed that the friend had rented this room just for us.

Being Forced Into Prostitution

19. The first day we spent in ██████, ██████ told me I had to stay inside. He told me that the city was a very confusing place and that I should not go anywhere. I listened to him and stayed indoors while he came and went. He said he was making arrangements for us. I figured I would soon get a job and begin learning my way around. I did not think anything was wrong at that point.

20. We had only been in New York City for about two days when ██████ told me that he owed people a lot of money. He said that our trip from ██████ had been expensive and that I needed to start working. He told me that his friend's wife worked and made good money. He then explained that in this job, I would go to a place and be paid to pleasure men. I was stunned and could not believe what he was suggesting. I remember asking him, "What are you talking

about?" I told him I could never do that sort of thing. I told him I could find another kind of job. Then he slapped me. It was such a sudden change. I was immediately terrified. I had trusted this man. I had introduced him to my parents and to my daughter. But in that moment, I realized that he was not the person I had believed him to be.

21. As I told this man who called himself [REDACTED] that there was no way I would do such a thing, he became enraged. He beat me brutally, punching me with fists all over my body. He screamed at me and said that if I refused to do as he told me, my daughter back in [REDACTED] would "pay the consequences." He also said he would hurt other members of my family in [REDACTED]. He knew where my family, including my daughter, lived in [REDACTED]. I was terrified and felt trapped.
22. What followed was a nightmare. Almost every day, [REDACTED] sent me out to be sold. He gave me a notebook full of phone numbers for prostitution houses. With each number there would be a name. [REDACTED] would select a number for me to call. When I called, I had to give the name listed next to the number in the book, claiming I had been referred by someone with that name. When asked for my name, I used the name [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] instructed me to ask the people I called if they needed a girl. If they did they would give me an address where I was to meet a driver.
23. A livery car would pick me up at designated spot. I was typically taken to houses in the borough of [REDACTED] in New York City. Most houses were run by young men and there were usually one or two other women in addition to me. I was expected to have sex with 20-30 men per day over the course of 10-12 hours. Being forced to have sex with men like this was horrendous. I think most men paid about \$40 for 15 minutes with a girl, but the girls like me were paid only \$15 of that amount. I believe I earned between \$2500 and \$3000 per week, but of course I was never allowed to keep any of this. Whatever money I earned, [REDACTED] took from me. He acted like he owned me.
24. One day I feeling very sick and begged [REDACTED] not to make me leave the house. [REDACTED] became angry and beat me with a belt. Afterwards I had red marks and bruises on my arms and my back. He told me he was teaching me how things were. He was always careful not to bruise my face – only my body.
25. On numerous occasions [REDACTED] raped me. He also regularly made threats to kill my daughter and other members of my family. He knew where my family lived in [REDACTED] and I lived in fear of what he might do.
26. I felt like I was living a nightmare, spending day after day being forced to have sex with men over and over again. [REDACTED] kept me very isolated. I was very rarely allowed to leave our apartment except for when going to prostitution houses. He sent our laundry out and paid other people to do it. We almost never ate out. If I didn't cook, he would buy food and bring it home.

Reaching a Breaking Point, Escaping [REDACTED]

27. One day around [REDACTED], I felt a very deep pain in my abdomen. I later began bleeding heavily. I was in much pain and was very scared of what was happening to my body. I decided I would rather die than continue working as a sex slave. When I went back to the apartment with Antonio that day, I told him about the bleeding. He told me I just had my period but I knew that

was not the case. I told [REDACTED] I could not take it any more. I could not keep being forced to have sex with man after man, day after day. It was a major confrontation.

28. [REDACTED] reacted angrily. He beat me all over, punching me many times in the face and kicking me in the legs. I was crying, begging him to stop. I told him I was going to call the police. I was actually much too scared to call the police, but I just wanted him to leave me alone. Much to my relief, he left. I was badly bruised and in a lot of pain. My left eye was extremely swollen. I felt so low.
29. Days passed and [REDACTED] did not return. I had a cell phone that [REDACTED] had given me for calling prostitution houses and a phone number for an aunt of mine who lived in New York City. I called my aunt and asked if she had space for me to stay with her. I told her I had been working as a waitress in [REDACTED] but had lost my job. She was happy to hear from me and invited me to live with her. I told her I would call back in a few days. As much as I was desperate to get away from [REDACTED], I did not want my aunt to see me so badly beaten. I did not want to have to answer questions about what had happened. I waited some time for my bruises to fade and for my eye to heal. Eventually I called my aunt and she arranged to have me picked up in [REDACTED] This was around [REDACTED]
30. At my aunt's apartment, I felt too ashamed to tell anyone what I had been through. I was in shock about it all myself. I worried all the time about what this man who called himself [REDACTED] [REDACTED] might do to me and my family. He had threatened to hurt and to kill my daughter many times in the past. At the time, I couldn't imagine reporting what this man had done to me to anyone. I saw no choice but to keep quiet. I wanted more than anything to make sure my family back in [REDACTED] was safe.

Threats from [REDACTED] Cause me to live in Fear

31. In [REDACTED] received a few phone calls – maybe two or three – from [REDACTED]. He said he was in [REDACTED] and made more threats to hurt my family. In those days, I used to sit up at night, unable to sleep. I would cry, worrying about my daughter and what might happen to her. After my escape, I felt so broken down and disconnected. It felt strange when anyone, even my aunt, touched me. I don't quite know how to explain it, other than to say that I felt dirty in some way.
32. In [REDACTED] I made arrangements to have my daughter brought from [REDACTED] to be with me in New York City. I knew how cruel the man who called himself [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was to me. I feared that he or people he was connected to would go after my daughter and kill her. Since escaping this trafficking situation, I have struggled with everyday life. For a long time, I felt nervous just being outside around people and didn't like leaving the house. I would sometimes have flashbacks having to do with the prostitution houses. To this day I still feel afraid of men.

Cooperating with Authorities

33. Despite my feelings shame and fear, I managed to tell my aunt about all that I had endured. Much to my relief, she was very kind and understanding. She told me she knew something bad had happened to me. She said she could see it in my face. She also said she heard me crying at night. I told her all about [REDACTED], the threats, beatings and violence and being forced into

prostitution. She encouraged me to talk to someone. She said there were people who could help me.

34. Around [REDACTED], my aunt arranged for me to meet with a lawyer from an organization called Sanctuary for Families. My lawyer told me that there was help available to me. She also helped me to report what [REDACTED] had done to me to a prosecutor from the U.S. Attorney's Office. The prosecutor asked me questions about meeting [REDACTED], traveling to the United States and my time trapped under [REDACTED]'s control. I provided her with the book [REDACTED] had given me containing phone numbers of people involved in prostitution houses in the New York City area. I have agreed to provide more assistance if necessary in the future.

Fear of Returning to [REDACTED]

35. I am terrified to return to Mexico. I fear that if I went back [REDACTED] would find me and kill me. In [REDACTED], I do not believe I could count on the police or any law enforcement to keep me safe. Things are very different in [REDACTED]. For one thing, there is so much corruption. I also believe that this man I know as [REDACTED] is connected to very dangerous people.

36. I have not recovered from what [REDACTED] put me through. I have gynecological pain and with the help of a case worker at Sanctuary for Families am getting medical help. I also still feel bad about myself morally. I know what happened was not my fault, but I am still very ashamed about it.

37. I hope to remain in the United States so that I can live in a safe environment. I would also appreciate the opportunity to recover from all that I have endured. I am seeing a therapist who is helping me a lot. I lived in silence for so long and only recently began talking about my experience a victim of human trafficking. I am hopeful that with services like this, I can move forward and make something of my life.

Wherefore, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

[REDACTED]

Sworn to and subscribed to before me
this ____ day of
_____ 20__

Notary Public

I, _____, certify that I am competent to translate English into Spanish and that I have read and translated this affidavit to [REDACTED]

PERSONAL STATEMENT OF CLIENT
IN SUPPORT OF HER T VISA APPLICATION (I-914)

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is CLIENT and I was born on DATE in PLACE, a rural area in the municipality of TOWN, Guatemala. I speak Q'eqchi, a Guatemalan dialect, and a little bit of Spanish. I worked with my lawyer and a Q'eqchi interpreter to make this declaration.
2. I am applying for a T visa because TRAFFICKER #1 lied and told me that I would have a good job and a good life in the United States. Instead, she brought me and my son, DERIVATIVE, to her house in PLACE, made us fake identifications and took us to a factory to start working to pay off a debt. The factory didn't give my son a job, because he was too young, but I started working the same day. TRAFFICKER #1 said I had to work until I paid off my debt, which she said would take years.
3. I was in TRAFFICKER #1'S house when the FBI came and arrested her. I was very scared to speak to them, because TRAFFICKER #1 had told me to never tell anyone else what happened inside the house. Even though I was scared, I told the FBI and the prosecutors what I know about TRAFFICKER #1. They applied for continued presence, which I received in DATE. TRAFFICKER #1 was found guilty of labor trafficking, and will have to be in jail for many years. I am willing to continue helping the authorities with any requests for assistance.
4. I am afraid to return to Guatemala, because TRAFFICKER #1'S family has threatened me and my son that if we return without paying back our debt, we would "face the consequences." I know that she is very upset, because she is now in jail and was found guilty of labor trafficking, and I believe her family in Guatemala could hurt us if we were forced to go back, now that we've spoken out against her.

LIFE IN GUATEMALA

5. My mom had 12 children, but one died so I was one of 11 siblings who grew up together. I never went to school, because my parents didn't have money to pay the school fees, so I never learned how to read or write. My dad taught us how to use a machete and plant in the field. We would wake up at about 3AM to start work. I would have loved to go to school, but it was not possible because we were so poor. When my siblings started getting married, they started leaving the house.
6. I was 15 years old when I was married to HUSBAND, who was about ten years older than me. It was not my decision to get married. HUSBAND's parents came to ask my family's permission for me to marry their son. My grandmother told me I had to be obedient and accept this offer, and I shouldn't pass up this opportunity, because there might not be

another. I didn't want to get married, and I was not in love. HUSBAND's parents just came to ask for my hand in marriage, and the adults in my life chose for me.

7. After we got married, HUSBAND and I lived with his parents, and my mother-in-law would insult me and treat me horribly. HUSBAND would beat me frequently, and when he drank, his beatings became worse. I did not feel safe in my home. Once HUSBAND saved enough money, we bought a small house near PLACE.
8. I worked selling tortillas and other food on the side of the road. I didn't have a stable salary. On the best days, I would earn about 30-40 Queztales (about \$3-5 US dollars), but I had to use some of those earnings to buy supplies to make the tortillas the next day, so I wasn't able to take all of it home. There were some days when I didn't sell anything. It is very difficult to find a job if you don't have an education. I also didn't speak any Spanish at the time, which made it harder to find a decent job.
9. I had four children, ADULT CHILD, ADULT CHILD, ADULT CHILD and DERIVATIVE. DERIVATIVE was born on DATE and he is my youngest child.

TRAFFICKER #2 AND TRAFFICKER #1 CONVINCED ME
TO COME TO THE US TO WORK

10. I don't remember exactly, but it was around DATE when, a cousin of mine, TRAFFICKER #2, stopped by my food stand to talk to me about going to work in the United States. He said that I should think about going, because I was hard working and could earn much more in the U.S. for all of my efforts that paid me very little in Guatemala. I told him I didn't have money to travel to the U.S., and he told me to talk with TRAFFICKER #1, because she could help.
11. TRAFFICKER #1 is a distant family member, who I had met in Guatemala a few times when we were young. She moved to the United States a long time ago. We didn't stay in touch when she left and I didn't have a relationship with her, but I knew she had a hotel in Guatemala.
12. TRAFFICKER #2 came around again and told me that the trip to the U.S. would leave in two days. I was shocked when he told me it would be so soon. I didn't know how to respond, but I said I didn't have the money. He said I didn't have to think about it, because TRAFFICKER #1 would loan me the money and pay for the travel up front. I didn't know what to do. Everything happened very fast, and I felt like I had to make a big decision in almost no time.
13. TRAFFICKER #2 arranged for a phone call with TRAFFICKER #1. On the call, TRAFFICKER #1 made me feel like there was no way I could say "no". She said, "CLIENT, you are coming. You are going to take advantage of this opportunity." I told her I didn't have money to pay for the trip. She told me, if I didn't take advantage of this trip,

there wouldn't be another opportunity. "You have to come, and not miss this opportunity," she repeated. She said that the only reason she was telling me now, was because I was a hard worker, and she said I would do well in the United States.

14. TRAFFICKER #1 didn't tell me what I would be doing for work, just that I would have a good job that would pay well. I was so in need of a good paying job that I didn't ask more specific questions about what I would be doing. I knew that TRAFFICKER #1 was successful in the U.S. and that she had status there, because she married an American man. She made me feel like I would have a great job that would pay well, and my life would be so much better in the U.S., because I would earn much more than I ever could in Guatemala, where I was poor and had no opportunity to change my circumstances.
15. TRAFFICKER #1 said the trip to the U.S. would cost about 35,000 Quetzales. This was the equivalent to about three years of my salary in Guatemala (~35 quetzales a day on the best days), so it seemed like a lot of money. I repeated that I didn't have money. She promised that I shouldn't worry about the debt, because I would be earning enough that I could pay it back quickly. She also said that she would guarantee my debt by taking the deed to my house, so that if I didn't pay the debt back, she would take my home in Guatemala. She told me that I should bring the deed with me to the U.S. This made me nervous.
16. She told me that she would arrange the travel to the U.S., but I couldn't come alone and needed to bring someone with me. She told me that if I was going to come, I should talk to TRAFFICKER #2 and his wife, TRAFFICKER #3, who would tell me how to come to the U.S.
17. TRAFFICKER #1 also told me not to worry about where we would live and that she was going to give us a space in her house where we could stay. The way she talked about it made it seem like we would only be living at her house temporarily, before we found our own place. TRAFFICKER #1 spoke like she was in control and knew a lot about living in the U.S., so I figured that she would have connections to places where we could stay.
18. I didn't want to leave my youngest child behind, and knew that DERIVATIVE would like to study in the U.S., because he was a good student in Guatemala. So, I decided that if I went, I would bring him with me. DERIVATIVE wanted to go the U.S., so we could have more financial stability and safety. My husband had abused me for our entire marriage and at that point he didn't send any money for support. My work selling food required me to wake up at 3AM to prepare the tortillas, beans and coffee. DERIVATIVE didn't want to live this way, being poor forever. It felt like going to the U.S. was the only opportunity to improve our lives. Still, I felt nervous making such a big decision, because it all happened so fast.

TRAFFICKER #1 PAID FOR AND COORDINATED OUR TRAVEL TO THE U.S.

19. I ended up saying “yes,” and telling TRAFFICKER #2’s wife that I would come to the United States with my son DERIVATIVE. TRAFFICKER #3 gave me TRAFFICKER #1’S number and address in the U.S., and told me I could not give TRAFFICKER #1’S number to anyone except for immigration when we got to the U.S. TRAFFICKER #3 told me where I had to go to meet the guide who would bring me and DERIVATIVE to the U.S.
20. I decided that I wouldn’t bring the deed to the house, because I didn’t want TRAFFICKER #1 to be able to take my property away. I was afraid that if I got turned around by Immigration at the U.S. border and was never able to work and earn in the U.S., I would have lost my house and be in debt with no way to repay it. So, when I came to the U.S., I gave the deed to my daughter who stayed behind in Guatemala, to keep it safe.
21. Throughout the journey to the U.S., there were many guides, who changed frequently throughout the trip. They would take us to a certain point, and then another guide would take over and bring us to the next stopping point. The trip was very difficult.
22. U.S. Immigration stopped us when we were walking. I don’t know the name of the place where we were when they stopped us. Immigration asked us where we were going, and who we were planning to stay with in the U.S. I gave them TRAFFICKER #1’S address and number. I called TRAFFICKER #1 with their phone and that’s how she knew we had arrived. TRAFFICKER #1 didn’t tell me how much the plane ticket to Chicago was going to cost, but said that she would pay for it.
23. Immigration gave me a piece of paper, but I can’t read, so I didn’t know what it said. They took us to a church, and I was told that the next day, we would leave very early for the airport to be united with TRAFFICKER #1.

TRAFFICKER #1 TOLD US WE HAD TO WORK TO PAY OUR DEBT

24. From the time that TRAFFICKER #1 picked us up at the airport in PLACE, she made me feel like we should be grateful for her help, and not ask questions. When we arrived, I asked TRAFFICKER #1 where I would be working. She said I shouldn’t worry about what I’d be doing, and said I should just be grateful for the opportunity to be in the U.S. I also asked her if she would help DERIVATIVE register for school, and she said yes, and I shouldn’t worry about it.
25. When we got to TRAFFICKER #1’S house, I didn’t feel well. I had a headache and fever. My throat hurt, and I was very tired and weak after the trip. But, I couldn’t rest, because TRAFFICKER #1 told me “there is work to be done, and you didn’t come here to rest, you came here to work.” I stayed shut up when she gave this order. I didn’t feel comfortable responding to her. She said as soon as we started working, we would start paying our debt.

I didn't know how much the total debt was yet, which made me nervous. But she made me feel like I needed to start working right away to pay the debt, even though I was desperate to rest after our long trip to the U.S.

26. The day we arrived or the day after, TRAFFICKER #1 said that DERIVATIVE and I needed documents to be able to work. I was confused when TRAFFICKER #1 said that DERIVATIVE would also need to work. She had just told me she would help him enroll in school, and before we came to the U.S., she only spoke about me getting a job, not DERIVATIVE. He was only 16 years old at the time, and both he and I thought he was going to be able to go to school, like he did in Guatemala. I wanted him to get a good education, something that I didn't have.
27. When I asked TRAFFICKER #1 about why DERIVATIVE couldn't go to school, she said DERIVATIVE would eventually be able to go to school, but since she paid for *both* of us to travel to the U.S., we *both* had debt, so DERIVATIVE also had to work to pay off our debt. She said that since it was the middle of the school year, he would have to wait to go to school until the next year, and just start working now.
28. I was sad that TRAFFICKER #1 wasn't going to help get DERIVATIVE into school. But, I didn't know anything about the school system in the U.S., so, when TRAFFICKER #1 said DERIVATIVE couldn't start school in the middle of the year, I believed her.
29. TRAFFICKER #1 was our only connection to life in the U.S. and we had no one else to provide support. I only spoke Q'eqchi, so I didn't think I would be able to communicate with the schools, even if I knew where they were. DERIVATIVE was also upset, and wanted to continue his studies, but we didn't have a choice.

TRAFFICKER #1 MADE FAKE IDS FOR US TO WORK

30. The day we arrived or the day after, TRAFFICKER #1 took our pictures on her cell phone and the next day she gave me and DERIVATIVE ID cards with our photos and names on them. She said we needed to show the ID to the factory where we would be applying for a job. She said we shouldn't lose the IDs, and had to keep it safe at home.
31. TRAFFICKER #1 drove us to the factory and told me and DERIVATIVE who we needed to speak to about applying for a job. After we followed her instruction, they gave me the job, but they turned DERIVATIVE away because they told him he was too young to work. I started working that same day, but TRAFFICKER #1 took DERIVATIVE home.
32. TRAFFICKER #1 would fill her van to take me and other people who lived in her house to and from the factory where we all worked. She charged me \$10 US dollars each day she drove me to and from work.

33. My shift started around 2PM, and some days I wouldn't get home until around 3AM. I worked 5 days a week. I worked in a food packing factory, where food passes on a conveyor belt. My job was to make sure the meat didn't touch the floor. During my shift, I got one break to eat, and another 10-minute break to rest. Otherwise, I was on my feet the whole time, working on the food line.
34. I received about \$450 a week. I was paid by check at the end of the week. But, out of my check, TRAFFICKER #1 told me I would have to pay for the debt and other living costs. She charged me \$450 for rent, \$10/day for rides to work, \$100 for food, and I would have to pay for my own laundry. After paying all of these living expenses, I knew I would have very little money left.
35. At first, TRAFFICKER #1 didn't tell me the amount of the debt, but said she would give us five years to pay it back. I asked TRAFFICKER #1 again how much my debt was in Quetzales because five years was a lot of time. She said there was "no reason to ask about the total of the debt. You shouldn't worry. Your pay is in US dollars, so you'll be able to pay. It is not as if you are earning Quetzales." She made me feel stupid for asking. I cried a lot when I heard that it would take five years. I thought, "What have I done?"
36. It wasn't until a few days after we arrived that she spoke to me about the debt when we were alone and no one could hear. She told me the debt was 35,000 Quetzales for the trip from Guatemala to the U.S. plus \$5,000 from the Mexican border to Chicago US dollars (\$2,500 US dollars for each DERIVATIVE and CLIENT), for both of our plane tickets to Chicago. I never saw proof of how she came up with this number, she just said that is how much our travel cost. Even though that sounded like a lot of money, I didn't know how to challenge her. It was the first time I had ever been on a plane, and I didn't know how much a plane ticket cost.
37. When I heard the amount of the debt, I was so worried. I realized that all my earnings would have to go towards paying the rent and the debt, rather than to save money, buy a home or make sure my son got a good education. I wouldn't have money for any of those things, because the debt was so high.
38. She told me that I had to pay it back, even if I returned to Guatemala. I knew she had family in Guatemala, and they would easily be able to find me if I returned. I remembered how she said she would guarantee the debt with my home in Guatemala, so I was afraid I would also lose my home if I didn't pay it back. I also knew that it would take even longer to pay back if I was earning in Quetzales rather than dollars, so I had to keep working in the U.S. to pay it back, or I would have no hope of ever paying it back with the work that paid me so little in Guatemala.

I FELT TRAPPED IN TRAFFICKER #1'S HOME

39. Before we came to the U.S., TRAFFICKER #1 made it seem like we were only going to be living with her temporarily, until she helped us find another place to rent. But, when we got here, things changed. There were many people living in the house, and we had no privacy. There were parents and children, and people who shared beds. There was only one bathroom that everyone had to share. DERIVATIVE and I shared a bed, and when we needed to change our clothes, we had to do so in front of other people.
40. TRAFFICKER #1 spoke in a stern voice. She said that when we were in the U.S., life was different than in Guatemala. She said if we wanted to go outside of the house to buy something or do laundry, we could only go with her nieces or nephews, and we couldn't go anywhere by myself. This was strange to me, but I was in a different country that I wasn't familiar with, so I followed her rules.
41. I never had a key to the house, and couldn't come and go as I wanted. TRAFFICKER #1 always kept the house locked and we were stuck inside. Aside from when TRAFFICKER #1 drove us to and from work, I only left the house one or two times with TRAFFICKER #4—TRAFFICKER #1'S niece--and DERIVATIVE, when I had to do laundry.
42. TRAFFICKER #1 said that if we went out alone on the street, it would be dangerous. She said there was no reason to leave the house, since we didn't know the place. This made me feel scared to leave the house. I was also afraid of getting lost if I went out; all the houses in the neighborhood looked the same to me, and I didn't know our address.
43. TRAFFICKER #1 also said we shouldn't speak with anyone inside the home. This was strange to me, because I was accustomed to spending time with friends and neighbors in Guatemala. But, I thought, maybe that's just how things are in this country. I don't know if anyone else in the house had debt, because no one spoke to each other. But, TRAFFICKER #1 did take many people every day to the factory, just like me, and I recognized some people from Guatemala, from the town where I was from.
44. TRAFFICKER #1 also told us that we shouldn't go down into the basement. She said I had "no business going down there." And if I needed anything, I should ask her. When I arrived, I didn't know that people were locked up in the basement. I didn't realize that until the FBI came.
45. I didn't know how many people lived in the house. But one day, I had to go down to the kitchen to cook, and there were lots of people in the kitchen. Some people were eating, other people were preparing their food, others were packing their food to bring to work.

46. Finally, TRAFFICKER #1 told me that I couldn't tell anyone what was happening inside the house. She controlled who we spoke to and what we could say, but I didn't realize until after I left the house that she was not letting me speak.

IMMIGRATION THREATS

47. When I arrived at TRAFFICKER #1'S house, she asked us what documents Immigration had given us. When I gave her the documents DERIVATIVE and I received, she didn't explain what was on the documents, she just told me when we had to go to the immigration office. I felt afraid I would be deported. I couldn't read so I didn't know what they said, and relied on TRAFFICKER #1 to help. TRAFFICKER #1 said that I could not miss the meeting with Immigration, because it would have consequences. I understood this to mean I could be deported.

48. I didn't know where the Immigration office was located, so she said she would take us. TRAFFICKER #1 said I would have to pay for the favor of taking me to the appointment. TRAFFICKER #1 told us that we shouldn't say anything to Immigration about what was happening in the house. This made me feel afraid to say anything to Immigration. But, before we had our first immigration appointment, TRAFFICKER #1 was arrested.

COOPERATING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

49. About two weeks after I had arrived at TRAFFICKER #1'S home, law enforcement came to arrest her. At the time, I had no idea what was going on and I was afraid. It was early in the morning and I was sleeping in the attic, when suddenly people started running up the stairs to the attic. They had a gun and told us to raise our hands. I felt hot with fear, and I didn't know what was happening. Some people started hiding.

50. They told us they were the FBI and not to be afraid. They brought us to a church along with other people who were living in the house, and some of TRAFFICKER #1'S family members. Only TRAFFICKER #1, her husband, and her niece TRAFFICKER #4 were held back at the house.

51. At the church, I met with a case worker and a lawyer, but I thought that they might separate me from DERIVATIVE or deport me. I didn't know anyone else in the country, so I trusted TRAFFICKER #1'S family more than the lawyer and case worker I just met. I feared telling them what happened at first, because TRAFFICKER #4 had told me not to tell anyone outside the house what was happening.

52. I returned to TRAFFICKER #1'S house with her family members, because I felt afraid that the people I met that day were going to have me deported, or I would get in trouble if I told them what was happening in TRAFFICKER #1'S home. TRAFFICKER #1'S family told me that I should not talk to a lawyer or to the FBI. They said that I still had to pay the debt

I owed, and that if I ever denounced TRAFFICKER #1, they would know about it. This made me afraid, and was the reason why I left the house. When I left the house, TRAFFICKER #1'S family made me pay them everything I had earned while working at the factory, because they said I owed them rent.

53. After that, I met with the FBI and the prosecutors and told them how I came to this country, and what I experienced at TRAFFICKER #1'S house. I was scared at first to speak with them, but I now understand that they are there to help. I am willing to continue helping them if they need it. The FBI gave me protection to be in this country and work authorization, which made me happy, because it allowed me to work lawfully, provide for myself and be independent from TRAFFICKER #1.

I AM AFRAID TO RETURN TO GUATEMALA

54. I am still afraid of TRAFFICKER #1 and her family, both in the U.S. and in Guatemala, because I have cooperated with the FBI and the prosecutor and not paid the debt that I owed her. I am worried that I still have to pay the debt I owe her.
55. If I had to return to Guatemala, I'm afraid that TRAFFICKER #1'S family would punish me for leaving her house before paying back my debt. When we lived in the house, her family would say that if we didn't finish paying our debt, they would find us in Guatemala. I'm afraid that if I don't have a way to pay the debt, I would have to repay them with my land in Guatemala or they would harm me or my children.
56. I think TRAFFICKER #1 or her family could harm me in Guatemala, because I didn't pay the debt they said I owed, and I cooperated with law enforcement. They know my whole family and my children. They would be willing to do harm. I don't have confidence in the police in Guatemala. I don't think they could protect me if TRAFFICKER #1 tried to harm me.
57. Here in PLACE, I have the support of my lawyers, the FBI and a case manager. The case manager has helped me with many things and get adjusted to life in the U.S. This has made me feel more stable in this country.
58. Thank you for your consideration of my application. I would be very happy if my visa and my son's visas were granted, because we could live with safety and work legally in this country. We would also have protection if TRAFFICKER #1'S family ever tried to harm us here, because law enforcement here actually protects people.

I, CLIENT, swear that the information in my sworn affidavit in support of my T visa application is truthful to the best of my knowledge and understanding.

Signature

Date

Statement of Translation Certification

This certifies that I, TRANSLATOR, am competent to translate from Q'eqchi to English and provided a true and accurate translation of the verbal statement of CLIENT .

TRANSLATOR
Maya Interpreters
1-855-629-2872

X/X/XXXX
Date

Wherefore, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Sworn to before me this [redacted] [redacted]

NOTARY PUBLIC

I, _____, certify that I am competent to translate English into Spanish and that I have read and translated this affidavit to [redacted] to the best of my abilities.

(Translator Name)

Sworn to before me this 10th day of [redacted]

NOTARY PUBLIC

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES**

Affidavit in Support of the T
Nonimmigrant Status Petition of
RMZ

AFFIDAVIT of
[REDACTED], Esq.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

I, [REDACTED], pursuant to 28 USC §1746, declare that the following is true and correct:

1. I am a [REDACTED] attorney with the Anti-Trafficking Initiative at Sanctuary for Families, a nonprofit organization that serves domestic violence victims and victims of sex trafficking.
2. I submit the following statement on behalf of RMZ (“Ms. MZ,”) in support of her I-914 Petition for T Nonimmigrant status, concerning her willingness to assist law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of her trafficker.
3. The information provided herein is based upon my actual knowledge of Ms. MZ’s cooperation, and willingness to cooperate further with law enforcement in the investigation of the human trafficking case in which she was a victim.
4. Ms. MZ was initially represented by [REDACTED] a Senior Staff Attorney previously employed by Sanctuary for Families. Ms. MZ’s case was referred to me internally at Sanctuary for Families in January of 2016.
5. Ms. MZ has cooperated with Agents of the New York County, New York, Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”).

Ms. MZ's Cooperation with Federal Law Enforcement

6. On September 15, 2015, with the permission of Ms. MZ, Ms. [REDACTED] contacted Officer [REDACTED], with the Child Exploitation Task Force of the FBI ("Officer Johnson"). In her message, Ms. [REDACTED] confirmed Ms. MZ's cooperation with the FBI in connection with an investigation of her trafficker and also expressed Ms. MZ's willingness to continue to provide assistance. Officer [REDACTED] responded on September 20, 2015 by e-mail, acknowledging that Ms. MZ had previously met with the FBI and requesting additional information from Ms. MZ's social media accounts (*see* Exhibit A, attached hereto).
7. On September 21, 2015 Ms. MZ responded to Officer J [REDACTED]'s e-mail, agreeing to forward responsive information (*see* Exhibit B, attached hereto).
8. On October 4, 2015, Ms. [REDACTED] emailed Officer [REDACTED] to follow up on her September 21st correspondence. On November 10, 2015 and December 15, 2015, Ms. [REDACTED] sent Officer [REDACTED] additional e-mails, requesting an update as to the status of the investigation and to reiterate Ms. MZ's willingness to cooperate (*see* Exhibit C, attached hereto).
9. Upon receiving Ms. MZ's case from Ms. [REDACTED], I emailed Officer [REDACTED] on January 21, 2016 requesting issuance of a T certification on Form I-914 Supplement B in light of Ms. MZ's previous and continuous willingness to cooperate with the FBI in the investigation of her trafficker (*see* Exhibit D, attached hereto). To date, I have not received a response from Officer [REDACTED].

Ms. MZ's Continued Willingness to Assist

10. Although it has required her to revisit painful and traumatic experiences, Ms. MZ has cooperated with law enforcement and remains willing to cooperate in further investigations against her trafficker.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and understanding.



Dated: _____
New York, NY



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

DANIEL W. TIETZ
Commissioner

BARBARA C. GUINN
Executive Deputy Commissioner

NOTICE TO STATUTORY REFERRAL SOURCE

██████████ 2022

██████████
Sanctuary for Families
30 Wall Street, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10005

OTDA Tracking Number: ██████████

Dear ██████████,

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), in consultation with the NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA), has reviewed the information you supplied on ██████████/22 regarding the possible human trafficking of ██████████ and determined that she **MEETS THE CRITERIA FOR CONFIRMATION** as a human trafficking victim in New York State.

It appears that ██████████ may be able to access services through Sanctuary for Families as one of the New York State Response to Human Trafficking Program service providers. We encourage you to continue working together.

Also, please refer ██████████ to the New York State Office of Victim Services at: New York State Office of Victim Services; Alfred E. Smith State Office Building; 80 South Swan Street, 2nd Floor; Albany, New York 12210; 1-800-247-8035; www.ovs.ny.gov.

Should you require further information please contact the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance at 212-961-5688. Thank you for your cooperation and your work to help these victims.

Best wishes,

████████████████████

████████████████

Program Aide, Response to Human Trafficking Program

cc: ██████████, Division of Criminal Justice Services



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office on Trafficking in Persons | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/endtrafficking

Este documento no es una Carta de Certificación oficial. El presente proporciona una traducción de la Carta de Certificación para su conocimiento. Cuando tenga acceso a beneficios y servicios, solo necesitará la Carta de Certificación oficial en inglés, porque esta copia traducida no se puede utilizar con fines oficiales.

Número de seguimiento del HHS: XXXXX
Fecha de nacimiento: XX/XX/XXXX

NOMBRE DEL CLIENTE
a/c SOLICITANTE
ORGANIZACIÓN
DOMICILIO

CONTENIDO DE LA CARTA DE CERTIFICACIÓN TRADUCIDO AL ESPAÑOL

Estimado(a) NOMBRE DEL CLIENTE:

Esta carta confirma que recibimos aviso del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional de Estados Unidos de que usted fue víctima de una forma grave de trata de personas. De acuerdo con el artículo 7105(b) (1)(E) y subsiguientes del Título 22 del Código de Estados Unidos (U.S.C.), esta Carta de Certificación del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos (Department of Health and Human Services, HHS) de Estados Unidos confirma que usted es elegible para solicitar beneficios y servicios con el mismo alcance que una persona refugiada. Esta carta no confiere estatus migratorio.

Usted puede comenzar a solicitar beneficios y servicios el **FECHA DE INICIO DE LOS BENEFICIOS**.

Si desea solicitar beneficios y servicios, es importante que busque asistencia a la mayor brevedad posible, porque algunos de los beneficios son de duración limitada y pueden caducar. Cuando tenga acceso a beneficios, lleve la copia original de esta carta a la agencia emisora de beneficios.

En el paquete adjunto encontrará más información sobre el acceso a beneficios y servicios, descripciones de los beneficios y servicios para los cuales usted es elegible e información acerca de los servicios de gestión de casos integrales que están disponibles para brindarle apoyo en este proceso.

La Línea Nacional contra la Trata de Personas en el 1-888-373-7888 también está disponible las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana, para que pueda comunicarse con los servicios disponibles en su zona.

Atentamente,

Katherine Chon
Directora
Oficina contra la Trata de Personas

Agencias que brindan los beneficios: para verificar esta carta en línea al instante, visite shepherd.otip.acf.hhs.gov y seleccione **Verificar una carta del HHS (Verify an HHS letter)**.

¿Tiene alguna pregunta? Llame al HHS al 1-866-401-5510 durante el horario de atención habitual.



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office on Trafficking in Persons | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/endtrafficking

HHS Tracking Number: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
C/O [REDACTED]
Sanctuary for Families
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10005

[REDACTED] 2022

CERTIFICATION LETTER

Dear [REDACTED]:

This letter confirms that we received notice from U.S. Department of Homeland Security that you were subjected to a severe form of trafficking in persons. In accordance with 22 U.S.C. § 7105(b) (1)(E), this HHS Certification Letter confirms that you are eligible to apply for benefits and services to the same extent as a refugee. This letter does not confer immigration status.

You can start applying for benefits and services on [REDACTED], **2022**.

If you wish to apply for benefits and services, it is important that you seek assistance as soon as possible because some of the benefits are time-limited and may expire. When you access benefits, bring the original copy of this letter to the benefit-issuing agency.

See the attached packet for further information on accessing benefits and services, descriptions of the benefits and services you are eligible for, and information about the comprehensive case management services that are available to support you in this process.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 is also available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to connect you with available services in your area.

Sincerely,

Katherine Chon
Director
Office on Trafficking in Persons

Benefit-issuing agencies: To instantly verify this letter online, visit shepherd.otip.acf.hhs.gov and select **Verify an HHS letter**.

Questions? Call HHS at 1-866-401-5510 during regular business hours.

[Date]

[Client name]

[Client Address]

Re: Approval of T nonimmigrant status and completion of representation

Dear [Client name],

Congratulations on your grant of T nonimmigrant status by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Please read the following information regarding your new immigration status carefully:

- You have been granted valid T nonimmigrant status dating from **[DATE]**, and lasting until **[DATE]**.
- You are now eligible to apply for a Social Security number. Note that you must apply for a social security number in your borough of residence. You may access more information at the Social Security Administration web site at www.ssa.gov.
- Once you have a Social Security number, you will become eligible to apply for a New York State non-driver identification or a New York State driver license. You may access more information at the New York State Department of Motor Vehicle web site at <http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us>.
- As a result of having been granted T nonimmigrant status on **[DATE]**, you **will become eligible** to apply for lawful permanent residence (also known as a “green card”) after three years in valid T nonimmigrant status—on or after **[DATE]**. If the investigation against the perpetrator in your case has closed, you may be eligible to apply for lawful permanent residence sooner. In any case, if you wish to apply for lawful permanent residence, **you must do so before [DATE]**. If your application for lawful permanent residence is not received by USCIS by that date, your eligibility for lawful permanent residence will expire along with your T nonimmigrant status.
- When you become eligible to apply for lawful permanent residence you may contact Sanctuary for Families at (212) 349-6009 for assistance with that application. Sanctuary for Families cannot guarantee that the organization will have the resources to assist you. You may also contact the New York Office for New Americans at 1-800-566-7636 for referrals to other immigration service providers.
- We do not recommend that you travel outside of the United States while you have T nonimmigrant status. At this time the United States government has not yet established a clear procedure to allow individuals who have been granted T nonimmigrant status to re-enter the United States after travel abroad.
- Being arrested, cited, charged, or convicted of any crime or violation of local, state or federal law may have a detrimental affect on your ability to obtain lawful permanent residence. Should you be arrested, cited, or charged with any crime we recommend that you make your criminal defense lawyer aware of your immigration status and of your future plans to apply for lawful permanent residence in the United States.

- At the time of your application for lawful permanent residency, you will need to establish that you have lived continuously in the United States for at least three years prior to the date that you file your application. To that end, we recommend that you save copies of telephone, cell, electricity, rent and other bills, bank statements, pay stubs, correspondence with any government officials, school records, immunization records, tax records and other documents which will establish your ongoing residence in the United States. You should also retain a complete copy of your passport if it expires during the period that you hold T nonimmigrant status.
- Should you move to a new residence, please be aware that U.S. federal law requires that you file a change of address form within 10 days of moving. You may file a change of address with USCIS by mail by submitting Form AR-11 to the Department of Homeland Security/USCIS/Attn: Change of Address/ 1344 Pleasants Drive Harrisonburg VA 22801-3852; by calling USCIS at 1 (800) 375-5283; or through the USCIS web site at www.uscis.gov.

For males under 17 years and 3 months, please include the following language:

- As a male person residing in the United States, please note that federal law will require you to register with Selective Service within 30 days of turning 18. Information about Selective Service registration is available at the Selective Service System web site at www.sss.gov.]

[For males between the ages of 17 years and 3 months and 26, please ensure that the client registers for Selective Service prior to termination of representation.]

This letter will confirm that the immigration legal work for and representation of you by [Law Firm] and Sanctuary for Families has been completed. Accordingly, we no longer have an attorney-client relationship with you.

We wish you and your family all the best in the future.

Sincerely,

[Attorney name]

QUICK REFERENCE:
STEP-BY-STEP CASE GUIDE
T NONIMMIGRANT STATUS APPLICATION

This basic outline of a T-Status case should be read in conjunction with the Manual, sample documents, and other resources on Sanctuary’s Pro-Bono Portal. Of course, every client and case is different, and so you will need to be flexible with the steps and the timing. Nonetheless, the following guideposts should give you a good sense of what to expect when you help a Sanctuary client apply for T-Status.

There are four phases in a T case, including (1) gathering information, supporting evidence and beginning the drafting; (2) reporting to law enforcement; (3) filing the application, and (4) post-filing arrangements. These four phases are described in detail below.

Phase 1. Gather Information and Begin Drafting

1. After you take a Sanctuary T client you should:
 - a. Get in touch with your Mentoring Attorney to set up an introductory case call. If Sanctuary has any relevant client documents, your Mentoring Attorney will send them to you before the call.
 - b. Attend, or watch a recording of, a Sanctuary T nonimmigrant status training, and review this Manual.
2. If you do not have someone who speaks the client’s language on your team, arrange for an interpreter to join the team. The interpreter should be the same throughout the case to maintain consistency and build trust with the client.
3. On the introductory call with your Mentoring Attorney, discuss any deadlines, such as derivatives turning 21, the Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) compliance requirement and whether the underage or trauma exception to that requirement applies to your client.
4. Call your client to introduce yourself and set up a time to meet. Go over the documents that you would like your client to start gathering and, ideally, bring to the first meeting. For the first meeting, you will likely want to set aside at least 1.5 to 3 hours (you may need at least 3 hours for the first meeting if an interpreter is involved).
5. Review the Exhibit, *Interviewing and Assisting Trafficking Survivors*, and the *Interviewing Your Client* section of this Manual to prepare for your first client meeting.
6. Meet with the client. You will need to meet with your client many times to build trust, and gather all the necessary information and supporting evidence.

7. You should start drafting the client affidavit as soon as practicable. This will help you organize all the information you have and will enable you to easily identify gaps or inconsistencies that you need to go over with your client at the next meeting(s). You should also begin gathering the supporting documents you want to attach to the T-Status application.
8. If your client has not already reported the trafficking to a Law Enforcement Agency (LEA), touch base with your Mentoring Attorney to strategize about which LEA you should contact to report your client's trafficking or whether the trauma exception may apply to your client. If your client is under the age of 18, there is no reporting requirement.
9. **Timing:** Phase 1 should be completed within the **first 4-6 weeks**¹ of your representation. It is important to gather the client's story right away so that you are prepared to help her through the law enforcement reporting process. This process could take some time, so you will want to start it as soon as you can. However, if your client is triggered by recounting their traumatic experiences, you should take a break or shift to more procedural matters like completing the client's fee waiver request.

Phase 2. Cooperation with Law Enforcement

10. If your client has already been cooperating with law enforcement, you should immediately reach out to the LEA to seek Continued Presence and work authorization (if your client does not already have it).
11. If your client has not yet contacted law enforcement, you should schedule a meeting to discuss the LEA compliance requirement, what it would entail and the client's goals (e.g. just do the minimum necessary or interest in criminal investigation). It is important to set clear expectations about how LEA agents may proceed and how that is separate and unique from what is necessary to meet the T status elements.
12. If your client has not yet contacted law enforcement, you should contact your Mentoring Attorney to request LEA contact information and the client's goals. Then, with the client's consent, you should begin reaching out to law enforcement to help your client report their trafficking after you are fully familiar with their case.
13. The mechanics and length of this phase will vary depending on how interested the LEA is and whether your client has been or continues to be traumatized by interaction with LEA officials. Your client may be asked for one or more interviews. Help them prepare for, and accompany them to, every interaction with law enforcement.
14. You should communicate with your Mentoring Attorney about how the LEA involvement develops and how to document your client's compliance with this requirement. There is no

¹ If your client struggles to tell you her story because of trauma even after multiple meetings, please notify your Mentoring Attorney so we can make the appropriate referrals, such as counseling, if the client is not already receiving mental health services. In some cases, it may be best for your client's health to pause work on the T application until they receive appropriate mental health care.

requirement for a signed I-914, Supp. B. If your client's traffickers are prosecuted as a result of the investigation, prosecutors may delay providing a signed I-914 Supp. B to avoid potential inconsistencies in testimony or the appearance that your client is testifying in exchange for an immigration benefit. While it is not necessary to submit a signed I-914 Supp. B, if your client is cooperating in an active prosecution, and wishes to file for T nonimmigrant status before the investigation/prosecution is over, please discuss with your Mentoring Attorney.

15. Do not wait to develop the rest of your case in anticipation of receiving a signed I-914 Supp. B, because there is no guarantee that LEA agents will provide a signed I-914, Supp. B., and your client's T-Status application does not depend on it.

Phase 3. Filing the Application

16. You should finalize your client's T-Status application once you have gathered all supporting evidence and ensured that it is consistent with your client's affidavit. Send the entire draft filing (including all supporting documents) to your Mentoring Attorney to review.
17. After you and your Mentoring Attorney are satisfied with the application package, schedule a final meeting with your client and have her review and sign all final forms and fee waivers, and notarize her affidavits.
18. Submit the entire application to the filing location listed on the USCIS website:

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-914>
19. E-mail your Mentoring Attorney a complete PDF of the entire filing. No need to send Sanctuary hard copies.

Phase 4. Post-Filing

20. After you file the application you will receive several Notice of Action Forms from USCIS. Update both your client and your Mentoring Attorney about all Notices of Action that you receive and send PDF copies of all notices to your client and Mentoring Attorney.

Practice Tip: After you get your first Notice of Action, you can create a USCIS account to track the progress of your case: <https://egov.uscis.gov/casestatus/disclaimer.do>
21. You will also get an Application Support Center (ASC) Biometric Appointment Notice for your client. Explain the notice to your client and what will happen at the appointment (photograph and fingerprints). If your client feels comfortable with these procedures, it is not necessary for you to accompany your client to this appointment.

22. You may receive a Request for Evidence (“**RFE**”). Please notify your Mentoring Attorney ASAP when you receive the request and ensure a timely response to the RFE before the deadline.
23. Timing on application decisions varies. USCIS processing times for T applications have ranged from 9.6 months in Fiscal Year 2017 to 18.6 months in Fiscal Year 2020. As of December 2022, the average processing time was 16.5 months.²
Practice Tip: The USCIS website provides estimates of the current processing times for various immigration applications: <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/>
24. Periodically check-in with your client. It means a lot to our clients when you keep them posted on the status of their case, even if it is just a brief call, email, or text to let them know you checked and their application is still pending.

² See <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/historic-pt>.