

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

Special Immigrant Juvenile classification: state findings and USCIS decisions

Can a state juvenile court grant SIJ status or permanent residence?

No. The USCIS SIJ guidance separates state juvenile-court findings from federal SIJ classification and permanent residence. The court's order must address the relevant dependency or custody, parental-reunification and child-welfare findings with a factual basis; USCIS makes the federal immigration decisions.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Preserve the complete order and issuing jurisdiction.
- ☐ Keep the relevant birth and other identity records.
- ☐ Identify the actual USCIS petition and outcome.
- ☐ Keep any visa-availability or adjustment question separately documented.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

USCIS: Special Immigrant Juveniles: state court findings and federal decisions

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-US/eb4/SIJ>

USCIS: Form I-360: one petition form with distinct eligibility categories

<https://www.uscis.gov/i-360>

USCIS: Humanitarian programs: official category navigation

<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian>

Immigrant Insider: Editorial policy and verification status

<https://immigrantinsider.com/editorial-policy/>

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<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/humanitarian/sijs/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.