

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

VAWA self-petitions: independent classification and separate residence stages

What does a VAWA self-petition separate from an abuser-controlled family petition?

USCIS describes self-petitioning in specified abused-family contexts without the abuser's knowledge, consent or participation. The I-360 classification process and any later permanent-residence stage remain distinct. Confidential handling and the actual qualifying relationship matter.

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

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Identify a communication method that does not expose the reader to avoidable disclosure.
- ☐ Preserve civil documents when safe and available.
- ☐ Keep relevant notices without assuming another person controls every option.
- ☐ Maintain original material privately rather than publishing it in a search or contact form.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

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

USCIS: VAWA self-petitions: independent petition and residence stages

<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/abused-spouses-children-and-parents>

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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Return to the complete guide

<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/family/vawa/>

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.