



SIJ Updates

October 26, 2018

Dalia Castillo-Granados, Director
ABA's Children's Immigration Law Academy (CILA)



A project of the American Bar Association funded by the Vera Institute of Justice and the Texas Access to Justice Foundation.

SIJ Overview & Eligibility Requirements

USCIS Policy Manual on SIJ

Tips for Positive Adjudication

After Obtaining the Order



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What is Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Status?

- ▶ SIJ status is a form of relief for non-citizen children in the U.S. who have suffered parental mistreatment.
- ▶ Who qualifies?
 - ▶ Children in the state's foster care system.
 - ▶ Children living with a non-parent caretaker.
 - ▶ Children living with one parent.
- ▶ Once SIJ status is granted, the petitioner is eligible to adjust status when a visa number becomes available.



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Three Key Phases in SIJ Cases

**Obtain State
Court Order**

**Petition for SIJ
Status (I-360)**

**Apply for Lawful
Permanent
Residence (I-485)**



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SIJ Status Eligibility Requirements

Physically present in the US

Unmarried

Under 21 on the date of filing I-360

Valid juvenile court order with findings

DHS consent



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Valid State Court Order



Issued under state law



Continuing jurisdiction



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First appeared as part of the conference materials for the
42nd Annual Conference on Immigration and Nationality Law session
"VAWA and SIJ Updates"