BEFORE YOU START

## What to gather

1. Passport, ID and birth certificate
2. Proof of your entry date
3. Police, medical or news records of the harm
4. Names of witnesses who can confirm what happened
5. For SIJS: school, medical and family records
6. Any notice from USCIS or the immigration court
7. Receipts for every fee paid

Beware of “notarios.” In the U.S., a notary public is not a lawyer and cannot give immigration advice. Only a licensed attorney or an accredited representative can.

VISAS TO VERDICTS™ GUIDE

## Talk to an immigration lawyer.

Hall Trial Lawyers represents individuals, families and employers before USCIS, the immigration courts and the Board of Immigration Appeals. Hablamos español.

CALL DAY OR NIGHT

**877-878-7584**

halltrials.com

Scan to read this guide online in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

**Greenville, SC**
107 E. Park Avenue, Suite 203, Greenville, SC

**Tryon, NC (headquarters)**
70A Pacolet Street, Tryon, NC 28782

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ATTORNEY ADVERTISING. General information, not legal advice. Immigration rules change often; this guide is current as of November 2026. Reading it does not create an attorney-client relationship. Responsible attorney: Brandon Carson Hall, Hall Trial Lawyers, PLLC, 107 E. Park Avenue, Suite 203, Greenville, SC 29601. Visas to Verdicts™ is a trademark of Hall Trial Lawyers, PLLC.

VISAS TO VERDICTS™

# Asylum & SIJS

*A free guide*

Protection for people who fear persecution, and for young people who were abused, neglected or abandoned by a parent.

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# Asylum

**Who qualifies**

People who were persecuted, or fear persecution, because of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.

**The one-year deadline**

You generally must apply within 1 year of your last arrival. If you missed it, ask about withholding of removal and the Convention Against Torture.

**New fees**

Since 2025 there is a $100 filing fee plus an annual fee for each year the case is pending. Missing the annual fee can cost you your work permit.



# Special Immigrant Juvenile Status

**Who qualifies**

Unmarried people under 21 who have a state court order finding they cannot reunify with one or both parents because of abuse, neglect or abandonment, and that returning home is not in their best interest.

**Age limits come early**

The state court order must come first. In North Carolina and many other states, that usually means before age 18.

**The wait**

After approval, many young people wait years for a green card. Protection during the wait has changed several times since 2025 and is in litigation.



# Protect your case

**Tell the truth, every time**

Inconsistencies between interviews, forms and court testimony can sink a case.

**Keep everything**

Copies of every form, receipt, notice and payment.

**Don't travel**

Leaving the U.S. can end your asylum case or bar your return. Talk to us first.

**Call 877-878-7584 to talk with our immigration team.**