

## INFORMATION SHEET

*It is vital for survivors to know that a lack of documents does not equate to an inability to apply for T-VISA, U-VISA, etc. There are various options for satisfying the document piece, and they should always consult with an attorney or an immigration specialist to see what options are available to them.*

### WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM THE TOOLKIT AND HOW

- The toolkit provides safety planning for everyone, including immigrants. It works to offer survivors a checklist of important documents, family information, emergency contacts, medical information, communication plans, and financial information, if the client can safely access them.

### LEGAL INFORMATION, NOT LEGAL ADVICE:

- The information in this toolkit is intended to provide general information and resources and is not legal advice. If immigration status and domestic violence is a concern for a victim/survivor, it is important to speak with an attorney or immigration specialist to determine the safest and best course of action.

### IMMIGRATION FRAUD:

- Please be aware that clients may be paying for services from someone who they believe is an attorney and/or an immigration law expert but who is fraudulent. People who are scammed lose money and can have serious problems with their immigration because of the fraudulent assistance. A scammer may call themselves a “notario público,” or notary public, which has a different meaning in other countries than it does here.
- [Click here](#) for more information about avoiding fraud and what clients should expect from their attorney or BIA-accredited representative.
- [Click here](#) for more information about protection against fraud.

### DOCUMENTS – HELPFUL, BUT NOT NECESSARILY REQUIRED:

- The “Helpful documentation” subsections listed under “Section 5: Legal Options” are not intended to discourage clients from filing for VAWA self-petition, Battered Spouse Waiver, U-Visa, T-Visa, Asylum, DACA, TPS, or SIJS because he/she is missing one or more of the documents listed.
- Clients should always work with an attorney or immigration specialist to examine the documents they may have and assess the need for other documents.
- Advise clients to always have/take documents with them if they need to leave (as part of safety planning)
- Photos of documents are helpful if the client cannot take the documents with them.
- NOTHING is *absolutely required*. All information can be helpful; clients should take what documents they do have to an attorney or immigration specialist. They should not think they cannot meet with an immigration law professional because they do not have all the documents they think they may need – an immigration law professional can work with them and help them determine a path to immigration safety.

*For questions or more information, please contact...*

Sonto Okam, Legal Projects Coordinator | 959.202.5060 | [sokam@ctcadv.org](mailto:sokam@ctcadv.org)  
Rhonda Morra, JD, Director of Civil Legal Advocacy | 959.202.5011 | [rmorra@ctcadv.org](mailto:rmorra@ctcadv.org)