

For legal self-help and information on many topics in Maryland, visit [peoples-law.org](http://peoples-law.org).

Human trafficking hotline - report a tip or get help immediately

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center (888) 373-7888, [polarisproject.org](http://polarisproject.org)

Human trafficking and domestic violence support services and legal help

- Casa de Maryland (301) 431-4185, [casademaryland.org](http://casademaryland.org)
- Domestic Violence Center of Howard County (410) 997-2272, [dvcenter.org](http://dvcenter.org)
- Heartly House (301) 662-8800, [heartlyhouse.org](http://heartlyhouse.org)
- House of Ruth of Maryland (410) 889-7884, [hruth.org](http://hruth.org)
- Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (877) 496-SALI, [mcasa.org](http://mcasa.org)
- Turnaround (443) 279-0379, [turnaroundinc.org](http://turnaroundinc.org)
- YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (410) 222-6800, [annapolisywca.org](http://annapolisywca.org)

Free and low-cost legal help with immigration

- Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (202) 393-3572, [apalrc.org](http://apalrc.org)
- Catholic Charities - Immigration Legal Services (410) 534-8015, [catholiccharities-md.org](http://catholiccharities-md.org)
- Multi-Ethnic Domestic Violence Project (410) 534-8800, [wlcmd.org](http://wlcmd.org)
- Tahirih Justice Center (410) 999-1900, [tahirih.org](http://tahirih.org)

## Are you a victim of human trafficking, domestic violence, or another crime?



**Legal Help and Protection for Undocumented Persons**

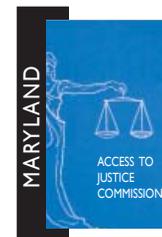
## Is it safe for me to go to court to get help?

You or someone you know may need help from the courts. Going to court can help you enforce your rights or get legal protection from domestic violence. But is it safe to go to court if you're undocumented? State courts provide justice to people within their jurisdiction. This includes people who are not American citizens.

In the United States, the federal government is separate from state governments, which includes Maryland's courts. The federal government enforces immigration laws (through agencies such as the U.S. Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services). State courts handle small claims, family, landlord-tenant, and other legal matters.

Most state court records, including court dates, are public information. On occasion, the federal government may use an event in a state court as a chance to find an undocumented person.

As a result, some undocumented people avoid going to court when they need legal protection. If you are a victim of human trafficking, domestic violence, or another crime, you may feel that you have nowhere safe to turn. This brochure will help you understand some of your options, and where you can get help in Maryland.



**Maryland Access to Justice Commission**  
[mdcourts.gov/mdatjc](http://mdcourts.gov/mdatjc)

## Legal protection for victims of certain crimes, human trafficking, or domestic violence



The federal government provides special relief to some immigrants who are victims of certain crimes, human trafficking, or domestic violence.

When someone commits a crime against you, U Visas and T Visas may be able to help you get the protection and justice you deserve. These visas can give you legal status in this country, and allow you to work.

Under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), victims of domestic violence can become permanent residents without their abusive, citizen family member's help in the process.

### U Visas — For victims of certain crimes

U Visas provide immigration protection to victims of certain crimes who help law enforcement with investigation and prosecution. These crimes include sexual assault, domestic violence, and kidnapping, among 24 other crimes.

A lawyer can help you apply for a U Visa by filing forms and documents including an I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status.

### T Visas — For victims of severe human trafficking

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. Trafficking victims often come to the United States after someone lies to them about a good job or life here. The victim may then be forced to work in brutal conditions or engage in prostitution.

A T Visa provides immigration protection to a victim of severe human trafficking who helps law enforcement with the trafficking case (or who is under 18).

A lawyer can help you apply for a T Visa by filing forms and documents including an I-914, Application for T Nonimmigrant Status.

### The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) — Immigration and domestic violence

The Violence Against Women Act applies to both men and women.

VAWA gives victims of domestic violence a way to apply for a green card without help from their abuser.

Eligible victims include a child, parent, or current or former spouse of an abuser, where the abuser is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

Applying for any of these protections can be confusing and complicated, so you should get legal help. See the other side of this brochure to find free and lower-cost legal services in Maryland.



The U.S. Office of Citizenship and Immigration Services processes visa and residency applications. You can contact them at [uscis.gov](https://uscis.gov), or (800) 375-5283.