

Immigration & Visa Information for Victims of Sexual & Interpersonal Violence

International students and scholars with questions about their immigration and visa status are advised to seek the assistance of an immigration attorney. This document is a resource to explain certain aspects of the law, but is not a replacement for legal advice.

I've been a victim of assault, does my immigration status affect my ability to access on-campus resources?

No. Under the law, students and staff who are victims or survivors of sexual and interpersonal violence receive the same rights under Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments (Title IX) and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), regardless of immigration and visa status.

Information about on-campus medical and counseling resources, as well as available accommodations, may be found at: <https://www.tntech.edu/healthservices/>

Information about the student conduct process may be found at: <https://www.tntech.edu/policies/>

The College will not retaliate against you or treat you differently on the basis of reporting a crime.

Can I press criminal charges as a documented or undocumented immigrant?

Yes. Information about your state's criminal definitions of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking may be found in the Annual Security Report: <https://www.tntech.edu/police/annual-security-report>

Specific questions about filing charges may be addressed to :

Zeva Edmondson, Title IX Office
1 William L. Jones Dr., Derryberry Hall 256, Cookeville, TN 38505
931-372-3112
<https://www.tntech.edu/titleIX>
zedmondson@tntech.edu

Are there specific visa and immigration statuses for victims of crimes?

Yes. For victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking, there may be other visa options, including U and T Visas. For specifics, talk to an immigration attorney.

U Visa	T Visa
<p>For victims of substantial physical or mental abuse as the result of certain criminal activity, including sexual abuse, domestic violence, rape, assault, or other related crimes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Victim/applicant must be a victim of qualifying criminal activity and likely to be helpful to the investigation and/or prosecution of that criminal activity -Generally valid for four years -For more information, consult an immigration attorney, and see: <p>http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/victims-human-trafficking-other-crimes/victims-criminal-activity-u-nonimmigrant-status/victims-criminal-activity-u-nonimmigrant-status</p>	<p>For victims of human trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Must comply with reasonable requests from law enforcement for cooperation in investigation or prosecution of trafficking act(s) (unless unable to cooperate because of physical or psychological trauma), and must be able to demonstrate that the victim/applicant would suffer extreme hardship if removed from the United States -Generally valid for four years -For more information, consult an immigration attorney, and see: <p>http://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/victims-human-trafficking-other-crimes/victims-human-trafficking-t-nonimmigrant-status</p>

