

**NATIONAL
IMMIGRANT
JUSTICE CENTER**
A HEARTLAND ALLIANCE PROGRAM

November 3, 20XX

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Attn: Adjudications
101 W. Congress Parkway
Chicago, IL 60605

RE: REQUEST TO HOLD THE I-485 IN ABEYANCE BASED ON A
PENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)
SELF-PETITION, FORM I-360

CLIENT, A12 345 678
I-485 Adjustment of Status Application

Dear Officer:

Please be advised that through this letter CLIENT With this letter notifies you that:

- (i) I am now representing her in immigration matters (to that end, I attach a completed Form G-28);
- (ii) her current address is as follows:
- (iii) she has been subjected to physical abuse and extreme mental cruelty by her U.S. citizen husband; and
- (iv) on January 6, 2006 she filed a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self-Petition on Form I-360 at the Vermont Service Center.

Through this letter, CLIENT requests:

- (i) that the U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (hereinafter “USCIS”) keeps her I-485 adjustment application open (in other words, holds it in abeyance) until the I-360 is adjudicated and the Vermont Service Center has renders a decision on her I-360;
- (ii) that USCIS replace the visa petition previously filed by her husband with the I-360 as the basis for CLIENT’s I-485; and
- (iii) that in accordance with the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant

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Responsibility Act of 1996 (“IIRIRA”) § 384¹, Department of Homeland Security employees (a) do not provide any information to her husband; and (b) do not rely on any information provided by him. (*See Non-Disclosure and Other Prohibitions Relating to Battered Aliens: IIRIRA Section 384 Memorandum issued on May 5, 1997 by Paul Virtue*).

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I have attached an executed Form G-28. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

NAME
Attorney at Law

Enclosures

¹ Section 384 of IIRIRA specifically prohibits (i) the disclosure of information to an abusive spouse relating to a spouse that he or she has abused and (ii) the reliance on any information provided by an abusive spouse to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Employees of the INS who violate either of these provisions are subject to fines of up to \$5,000 for each violation.