

## Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Self-Petition Flow Chart (I360)

The process through which a non-citizen who has been subjected to abuse or extreme cruelty by a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (LPR) spouse, parent or child over 21 may self-petition. The abused victim may file for immigration protection without the assistance of the abusive family member.

The spouse, parents and minor children of abusive U.S. citizens are considered “immediate relatives” and have visas immediately available. Relatives who are not “immediate relatives” must wait for a visa to become available for them and are assigned a “priority date.” When the “priority date” becomes current, the non-citizen relative’s visa will become available.

Visa availability is determined by the U.S. State Department and announced through its visa bulletin. Visa availability is determined by the U.S. State Department and announced through its visa bulletin. You can check the current visa bulletin at [http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin\\_1360.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_1360.html) or by calling (202) 663-1541. When the priority date on your I-130 receipt notice is the same or earlier than the date in your visa category, you may be eligible to apply for LPR status. Please consult with an immigration attorney before filing any application for LPR status.

Please know that you are required to notify U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services of any change of address. For additional assistance, please come to our office during consultation hours.

