REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE:
ANNUAL U-VISA CERTIFICATION DATA
PURSUANT TO PENAL CODE §679.10(n)

Reporting period: January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025
Submitted by: Michelle Ray, Deputy District Attorney
Date of Submission: June 5, 2026

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is respectfully submitted by the Office of the Orange County District Attorney to the California State Legislature pursuant to Chapter 721, Statutes of 2015 (Senate Bill 674), amended and later enacted in January 2020 as California Penal Code §679.10. This report is prepared in strict compliance with California Government Code §9795.

Penal Code §679.10(n) mandates that all certifying entities report, annually, beginning January 1, 2017, the number of Form I-918 Supplement B (U-Visa) certifications requested, signed and denied by the certifying agency.

During the 2025 calendar year, the Office of the Orange County District Attorney processed a total of 497 initial requests for Form I-918 Supplement B certifications. Of these requests, 306 were officially signed and approved, and 191 were denied.

An electronic copy of this complete report is publicly accessible at https://ocdistrictattorney.gov/ For questions or to request a physical paper copy of this report, please contact the agency representative listed below.

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STATUTORY BACKGROUND AND OBLIGATIONS

As part of the federal Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000, Congress created specific immigration benefits, including U Visa nonimmigrant status (also known as the "U-Visa") for noncitizen victims of certain crimes. In creating the U-Visa, Congress recognized that people without lawful immigration status can be vulnerable to victimization, and may be reluctant to help in the detection, investigation or prosecution of criminal activity due to a fear of removal from the United States, because of trauma suffered as a result of the crime they experienced and/or a general mistrust of law enforcement. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is the federal agency within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that adjudicates immigration and citizenship benefits and has jurisdiction to determine who is eligible for a U-Visa.

Specifically, U-Visas provide an immigration benefit for victims of qualifying criminal activity who have been helpful, are being helpful, or are likely to be helpful to law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, or other officials in the detection, investigation, prosecution, conviction or sentencing of the qualifying criminal activity.

"Qualifying criminal activity" includes rape, torture, human trafficking, incest, domestic violence, sexual assault, abusive sexual contact, prostitution, sexual exploitation, female genitalia mutilation, being held hostage, peonage, perjury, involuntary servitude, slavery, kidnapping, abduction, unlawful criminal restraint, false imprisonment, blackmail, extortion, manslaughter, murder, felonious assault, witness tampering, obstruction of justice, fraud in foreign labor contacting, stalking[1] as well as crimes with substantially similar natures and elements.

"Upon request of the victim, victim's family member, licensed attorney representing the victim, or representative fully accredited by the United States Department of Justice authorized to represent the victim in immigration proceedings, a certifying official from a certifying entity shall certify victim helpfulness on the Form I-918 Supplement B certification, when the victim was the victim of a qualifying criminal activity and has been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful to the detection or investigation or prosecution of that qualifying criminal activity…"[2] A certifying agency includes a prosecutor.[3]

Finally, Penal Code §679.10(n) mandates that every certifying agency submits its operational metrics to the Legislature on or before January 1 of each year. These metrics include the number of victims that requested Form I-918 Supplement B certification, the number of those certifications signed and the number of certifications denied.[4]

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[1] Penal Code §679.10(c)
[2] Penal Code §679.10(g)(1)
[3] Penal Code §679.10(a)(2)
[4] "A certifying entity that receives a request for Form I-918 Supplement B certification shall report to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, the number of victims that requested Form I-918 Supplement B certifications from the entity, the number of those certification forms that were signed and the number that were denied. A report pursuant to this subdivision shall comply with Section 9795 of the Government Code."

OPERATIONAL METRICS

The table below details the Form I-918 Supplement B certifications recorded by the Office of the Orange County District Attorney for the years 2016 through 2025:

Year:	Total Requested[5]:	Total Granted:	Total Denied[6]:
2016	425	252	173
2017	466	276	190
2018	385	262	123
2019	460	367	93
2020	312	251	61
2021	318	243	75
2022	369	255	114
2023	358	267	91
2024	380	232	148
2025	497	306	191

[5] This metric data includes initial requests only and does not include requests for recertification of a Form I-918 Supplement B previously signed.

[6] Denials were based on federal or state statutory limits including but not limited to: (1) the applicant was not a victim of a qualifying crime listed in Penal Code §679.10(c), the applicant failed and/or refused to assist law enforcement with the ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution, or insufficient information was provided to complete the request.