



June 6, 2024

PA-2024-14

Policy Alert

SUBJECT: Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification and Limited In-Person Filing

Purpose

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is updating policy guidance in the [USCIS Policy Manual](#) to address how petitioners for special immigrant juvenile (SIJ) classification (or their representatives) may schedule an appointment with a USCIS field office to file a Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant ([Form I-360](#)) in person in limited circumstances.

Background

The SIJ classification is available to children who have been subject to state juvenile court proceedings related to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis under state law.¹ To apply for SIJ classification, eligible children must file [Form I-360](#) by their 21st birthday.

To facilitate filing by a petitioner who has nearly reached their 21st birthday, petitioners for SIJ classification (or their representatives) may schedule an appointment with a USCIS field office during the 2-week period before they turn 21 years of age to file [Form I-360](#) in person. For petitioners who are not within 2 weeks of their 21st birthday, they must submit their petition in accordance with current filing instructions.²

Previously, petitioners could only file [Form I-360](#) by mail, which prevented some petitioners from timely filing Form I-360 by their 21st birthday due to circumstances beyond their control, such as mailing delays or juvenile court delays in issuing the required judicial determinations. This in-person filing flexibility gives SIJ petitioners at risk of aging out of eligibility an additional way to ensure USCIS receives their petitions on time.

This update, contained in Volume 6 of the Policy Manual, is effective immediately. The guidance contained in the Policy Manual is controlling and supersedes any related prior guidance on the topic.

Policy Highlights

¹ See [INA 101\(a\)\(27\)\(J\)](#).

² For the most up to date filing information, see the [Form I-360](#) webpage.

- Explains that petitioners for SIJ classification (or their representative) may contact the USCIS Contact Center to request an expedited appointment with a USCIS field office to file the [Form I-360](#) in person within the 2-week period before the petitioner turns 21 years of age.
- Explains that after properly filing [Form I-360](#) in person, USCIS issues a receipt notice by mail, using the date the field office physically received the Form I-360 as the receipt date.

Summary of Changes

Affected Section: Volume 6 > Part J > Chapter 2 > Section B, Age-out Protections for Filing with USCIS

- Adds two new paragraphs under new subheading, “In-Person Filing by the Petitioner’s 21st Birthday.”

USCIS may also make other minor technical, stylistic, and conforming changes consistent with this update.

Citation

Volume 6: Immigrants, Part J, Special Immigrant Juveniles, Chapter 2, Eligibility Requirements [[6 USCIS-PM J.2](#)].