

VAWA EVIDENCE LIST

You do not need every document on this list.

You should have at least one document for each category.

The more documents, the better.

- Evidence of your Identity and Status
 - Copy of Current Passport
 - Copy of Expired Passport
 - Copy of birth certificate w/translation
 - Copy of Driver's License
- Evidence of United States Citizen Status of Abuser:
 - Abuser's U.S. birth certificate, Certificate of Naturalization, or U.S. passport
 - Abuser's green card or any other CIS document indicating immigration status of the abuser
 - Affidavits by persons who have knowledge of the abuser's immigration status
 - Upon request, the CIS will attempt to electronically verify abusers' citizenship or immigration status from their computerized records, but the self-petitioner should describe her efforts to secure evidence of his status
- Evidence of Petitioner's Good Faith Marriage:
 - Marriage certificate
 - Wedding pictures, wedding video, or vacation pictures
 - Pictures of the couple together
 - Birth certificates of children that they had together
 - Letters or cards sent to the client by her spouse
 - Letters or cards sent to her family members by her spouse

- Names, addresses, and phone numbers of people who knew the abuser and the client as a married couple
 - Photo ID's with the client's new married name on them
 - Insurance policies listing the other spouse
 - Insurance policies naming the spouse as beneficiary
 - Joint leases, income tax forms, or bank accounts
 - Police, medical, or other court documents regarding the relationship
 - Proof that one spouse has been listed as the other's spouse on insurance policies, property leases, income tax forms, or bank accounts
 - Birth certificates of children born in the U.S.
 - Photo albums
- Evidence of Petitioner's and Abuser's Shared Residence (some of this evidence may also be used to show good faith marriage)
 - Employment, school, or education records that list the names of both the client and the abuser
 - Letters or cards addressed to both the client and the abuser
 - Postmarked envelopes from correspondence addressed to each party reflecting the same address at the same period of time
 - Lease agreements or rent receipts with both spouses' names on them; or a lease agreement listing one party's name with the other party listed as also residing at the same location
 - Utility bills
 - Medical records
 - Joint auto, health, or life insurance
 - Joint tax returns
 - Credit card bills
 - Joint bank accounts
 - Property deeds in both names
 - Magazine subscriptions in both names

- Letter from an apartment manager, landlord, neighbor, or anyone else who knew the couple lived together
 - Other legal documents in both spouses' names
- Evidence of Domestic Abuse Suffered by the Petitioner
 - Restraining orders or civil protection orders obtained in any state, and the accompanying affidavits
 - Police reports and records of phone calls or visits to the couple's address
 - Criminal court records of the batterer's actions; or a woman's own statement given to the police or prosecutor
 - Photographs of any injuries that the woman has or that an advocate or attorney takes
 - Corroborating witness affidavits for each incident of abuse where another person was present, or from witnesses who saw or heard an assault or threat, saw her bruises or injuries, or was told by her about abusive incidents close to the time that they occurred
 - Medical records, regardless of whether the client told the medical attendant the true source of her injuries
 - Domestic violence shelter records or affidavits attesting to the time that she spent in the shelter and the incidents of abuse disclosed to shelter workers
 - Counseling/mental health records if the client attended counseling
 - Photographs of damaged property if a batterer has damaged anything during a violent incident, such as ripping clothes, smashing sentimental objects, pulling phone cords out of the wall, etc.
 - Reports and affidavits from police, judges and other court officials, medical personnel, school officials, clergy, social workers, and other social service agency personnel
- Evidence of Petitioner's Good Moral Character
 - Copy of Client's Criminal History Record
 - Police clearance letter
 - FBI Background Check