

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS  
THAT CAN HELP:**

Catholic Charities: 212-371-1011 Ext. 3772  
Main Street Legal Services: 718-340-4300  
NYIHI: 1-800-566-7636  
Safe Horizon Immigration Law Project:  
718-899-1233  
The Legal Aid Society: 212-577-3456  
Urban Justice Center: 646-602-5600

Programs offered at The Door  
are free and confidential

Career Development

Counseling

Creative Arts

Legal Services

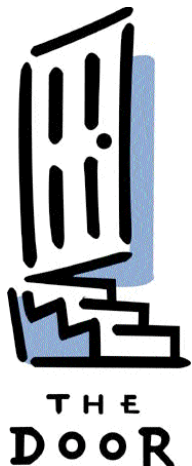
Education

Health

Physical Arts

And more...

[www.door.org](http://www.door.org)



For more information contact:  
The Door's Legal Services Center  
212-941-9090 ext. 3280  
555 Broome Street  
New York, NY 10013  
Web: [www.door.org](http://www.door.org)  
email: [lawyers@door.org](mailto:lawyers@door.org)

# **SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS**



## **GREENCARDS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE OR GUARDIANSHIPS**



This pamphlet contains legal information,  
but it should not be considered legal advice  
and is not a substitute for speaking with a  
lawyer. If you need legal advice and  
representation please call The Door's Legal  
Services Center: (212) 941-9090 ext. 3280.

## WHAT IS IT?

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status ("SIJS") is a special way for immigrant youth who have been abused, abandoned or neglected to become lawful permanent residents of the United States and obtain a green card. Young people do not need the help of their parents to obtain Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, and actually cannot be living with their parents to get SIJS.

## ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS?

In order to qualify for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, a judge must make an order finding that:

1. You are in foster care, a guardianship, or have been adopted due to abuse, abandonment, or neglect.
2. It is not in your best interest to return to your country of origin.

## TO REMAIN ELIGIBLE:

1. **You must remain in foster care (unless you are in a guardianship or adoption) throughout the process of obtaining your green card.**
2. **You must not get married.**
3. **You must not have certain criminal convictions.**
4. **You must not leave the country without consulting an attorney.**



## WHY SHOULD I APPLY FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS?

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status allows children and youth under age 21 to become a permanent resident of the United States and get green cards ("Lawful Permanent Resident").

## WITH A GREEN CARD, YOU CAN:

- Live permanently in the U.S.
- Work legally
- Travel outside of the U.S.
- Receive financial aid for college.
- Have access to some kinds of public benefits such as Public Assistance, Medicaid, Food Stamps, and Public Housing/Section 8.

## ARE THERE ANY RISKS IN APPLYING FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS?

Yes. If Immigration denies your application for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, you could be removed (departed) from the U.S. For this reason, please speak to a lawyer before submitting your application.

## IF I DON'T QUALIFY FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS, CAN I STILL GET A GREEN CARD AND BECOME A PERMANENT RESIDENT?

Maybe. Even if you don't qualify for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, you might still be able to obtain a green card through such methods as sponsorship by relatives or adoptive parents, political asylum, or marriage. Please speak with an attorney to discuss your options.