SIJS Legal Services Providers, continued:

Lutheran Social Services of New York  
Tel: 212-265-1826

New York Law School Safe Passage Project  
SIJS Contacts: Lenni Benson, Esq.; Bethany Ow, Esq.  
Tel: 212-431-2336  
lenni.benson@nyls.edu; bethany.ow@nyls.edu

Safe Horizon Immigration Law Project  
SIJS Contact: Lynn Neugebauer  
Tel: 718-943-8634  
lneugebauer@safehorizon.org

Sanctuary for Families (All Boroughs)  
Immigration Intervention Project  
SIJS Contact: Deborah Lee, Esq.  
Tel: 718-250-4402  
dlee@sffny.org

Urban Justice Center  
Peter Cicchino Youth Project  
(Serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning youth)  
SIJS Contact: Megan Stuart, Esq.  
Tel: 646-602-5643/877-LGBT-LAW  
mstuart@urbanjustice.org

Office of Advocacy  
Immigrant Services  
150 William Street, 1st Floor  
New York, NY 10038  
www.nyc.gov

Parent’s and Children’s Rights  
Helpline  
212-676-9421  
(Interpreters Available)

Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Gladys Carrión, Esq., Commissioner

SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS  
Green Cards for Youth in Foster Care

Some of the information provided in this pamphlet was adapted from The Door's pamphlet SIJS Green Cards for Youth in Foster Care and Guardianship.

This pamphlet contains legal information, but it should not be considered legal advice and is not a substitute for speaking with a lawyer.
Please note that the applicant’s law enforcement contacts and crime-related issues are factors in getting Lawful Permanent Residence/a Green Card based on SIJS. Be sure to discuss these issues carefully with a SIJS legal services provider prior to making any applications.

For Youth in Foster Care
If you are in foster care and do not have legal immigration status, you should receive assistance from ACS and your agency. You should notify your case planner in the foster care agency about your immigration needs and you will be referred to a legal services provider who will evaluate your situation and assist you.

Why Should I Apply for SIJS?
Special Immigrant Juvenile Status allows youth to become lawful permanent residents of the United States and obtain Green Cards.

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, and Public Housing.

How do I apply for SIJS?
If you qualify for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, a SIJS legal services provider will work with you throughout the application process. They will help you gather documents, obtain a court order to support your application, complete immigration forms, and accompany you to immigration appointments.

Are There Risks in Applying for SIJS?
Possibly! There is minimal risk in going to Family Court to obtain a court order to support your application. However, if immigration denies your application for SIJS, you could be placed in removal/deportation proceedings. For this reason, make sure you speak to a SIJS legal services provider before submitting your application and do not submit one without proper legal assistance.

If I Don’t Qualify for SIJS, Can I Still Get a Green Card and Become a Permanent Resident?
Maybe. Even if you don’t qualify for SIJS, you might still be able to obtain a green card through such methods as sponsorship by relatives or adoptive parents, asylum, or marriage. You may also qualify for VAWA or a U Visa if you are a victim of a crime such as domestic violence. Speak with a SIJS Legal Services Provider to discuss your options.

SIJS Legal Services Providers:

- Atlas-DIY
  SIJS Contact: Lauren A. Burke, Esq.
  lauren.burke@atlasdiy.org

- Catholic Charities Community Services
  Immigration Services Department
  SIJS Contact: Mario Russell, Esq.
  mario.russell@archny.org

- Catholic Migration Services
  1258 65 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219
  Tel: 718-236-3000

- The Door Legal Services
  SIJS Contacts: Eve Stotland, Esq.; Elyssa Caplan, Esq.
  Tel: 212-941-9090 Ext. 3283
  estotland@door.org; ecaplan@door.org

- Lawyers For Children
  Immigration Rights Project
  SIJS Contact: Myra Elgabry, Esq.
  Tel: 212-966-6420, Ext. 638
  melgabry@lawyersforchildren.org

- The Legal Aid Society Immigration Law Unit
  youthreferral@legal-aid.org