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USCIS Issues Further Guidance on Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification

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Submitted by Chief Editor on Nov 22nd 2019

On Oct. 11, USCIS issued [three adopted Administrative Appeals Office decisions](#) ^[2] to clarify requirements for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) classification. USCIS is now updating the [USCIS Policy Manual \(PDF, 375 KB\)](#) ^[3] to reflect those clarifications.

This update reaffirms and clarifies that:

- The petitioner must have been a juvenile under relevant state law when the juvenile court order was issued;
- USCIS requires evidence of a court's intervention to provide relief from abuse, neglect, or abandonment beyond a statement that the juvenile is dependent on the court; and
- USCIS will no longer require evidence that a state court had the authority to place a petitioner in the custody of an unfit parent in order to make a qualifying determination regarding parental reunification for purposes of SIJ classification.

Visit the [Policy Manual for Comment](#) ^[4] page to comment on this update.

Agency:

[AAO](#) ^[5]

[USCIS](#) ^[6]

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Links:

[1] <https://immigration.com/news/uscis-issues-further-guidance-special-immigrant-juvenile-classification>

[2] <https://www.uscis.gov/news/uscis-clarifies-special-immigrant-juvenile-classification-better-ensure-victims-abuse-neglect-and-abandonment-receive-protection>

[3] <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/policymanual/updates/20191119-SIJ.pdf>

[4] <https://www.uscis.gov/outreach/feedback-opportunities/policy-manual-comment>

[5] <https://immigration.com/agencies/agency/dhs/aao>

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