Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS): A Path to Lawful Permanent Residence for Immigrant Children

**Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)**
Is available only to unmarried, noncitizen children (under 21) who currently reside in the U.S. and have been abused, neglected, or abandoned by one or both parents.

**Step One: Obtain the Predicate Order from State Court**
File Motion for Special Findings in Colorado state court that has jurisdiction “to make judicial determinations about the care and custody of juveniles” 8 C.F.R. § 204.11(a).

- Juvenile Court/Dependency and Neglect/Delinquency/Adoption (up to age 21)
- Probate/Guardianship (up to age 18)
- Allocation of Parental Responsibilities (APR) (up to age 18)

**Special Findings Necessary to Apply for SIJS**
- The child is under 21 and unmarried;
- Reunification with one or both parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or similar basis under state law;
- The child is dependent upon the juvenile court or has been legally committed to, or placed under the custody of, an agency or department of a State, or an individual or entity appointed by a State or juvenile court;
- It is not in the best interest of the child to return to his or her country of last habitual residence; and
- The child will remain under the jurisdiction of the court until the child ages out, unless or until required by law or in the best interests of the child.

**Step Two: Petition for Immigration Status**
With the Predicate Order from the State “Juvenile” Court, the Child is Able to Submit a Petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and Lawful Permanent Residency with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).