



# Elimination of Protections for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Youth

## Summary

**Effective June 6, 2025** the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) issued a policy alert announcing the immediate termination of deferred action consideration and work authorization for Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) youth. The agency's decision to end this policy creates devastating consequences for immigrant children for whom the agency has already determined are in need of protection - putting them at risk of further harm, labor exploitation and deportation.

## What does this change in practice?

- Young people with approved SIJ classification **will no longer be considered for deferred action**, which protected them from deportation, and **will not be able to obtain a deferred action-based work permit**.
- Young people who already have SIJ deferred action will generally retain it until their validity period expires, unless USCIS decides to terminate it. However, **they will not be able to renew their deferred action or work authorization**.

## What is Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) Classification and why is it important?

SIJ classification was created in 2022 as a humanitarian protection to provide a pathway to lawful permanent residence status for young people, under the age of 21, who have survived parental abuse, abandonment and neglect.