



USCIS Form Alert - Blank Spaces on Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status (January 2020)

On December 30, 2019, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [placed an alert on their website](#) for Form I-918, Petition for U Nonimmigrant Status, stating:

Alert: We may reject your Form I-918 or your Form I-918 Supplement A if you leave a field blank, unless the field is optional. Optional fields include the safe mailing address as well as fields you should only complete if you answered yes to a previous question. You must provide a response to all other questions, even if the response is “none,” “unknown” or “n/a.” We will reject a Form I-918 or a Form I-918 Supplement A that has, for example, an empty field for middle name, for current immigration status, or for information pertaining to a spouse or child.

With this alert, USCIS continues its draconian agenda of limiting access to protections for the most vulnerable. USCIS has unjustly singled out U visas applicants [as it has in the past with asylum seekers](#). ASISTA will vehemently push back against this change in procedure. and we will provide updates as they become available. In the interim, ASISTA has developed the following practice pointers to minimize the risk of rejection.

It is possible that USCIS will start implementing this policy on applications that were received on or after December 30, 2019, the date the alert was posted on the USCIS website. Keep in mind that rejections based on this alert may be delayed as the mailroom personnel update their procedures.

A. Avoiding Rejections

In an abundance of caution, practitioners should complete every optional field.

- For example, Part 3 Question 1 of Form I-918 instructs applicants to answer a series of “Yes/No” questions about their criminal history. In Questions 2 and 3, applicants are then instructed to provide more information about any “yes” responses above. Even if the answers in Question 1 are all “No,” applicants should still answer “N/A” for fields in Questions 2 and 3.

Even though this is not required, doing this may minimize the possibility of rejection in the mailroom. Given the specificity of their alert, we do not recommend simply crossing out entire sections that do not apply.

B. Formatting

The fillable PDF form available on the USCIS website limits the ability to write in “N/A” in certain fields. For example, in Part 1 Question 2, if the applicant does not have a maiden name, alias or nickname, the form will not permit you to write “N/A.” Similarly, if an applicant does not have an A#, the form does not allow you to write “N/A” or “None” in the A# field.

If your agency or firm has specific immigration form software, then it likely allows inserting a text box where you can write in the appropriate response. If your organization does not have form software that permits this, practitioners may choose to complete the entire application by hand, or else fill the application as much as possible online, then print out and hand-write the fields that will not permit the correct answer in the space.

We realize this is unduly burdensome, and will be raising the issue of accessibility to USCIS. Please contact [ASISTA for technical assistance](#) if you have questions.

C. Other Forms

According to the alert, this policy applies to Forms I-918 and I-918 Supplement A, and should not apply to Form I-918 Supplement Bs. **If you notice any rejections based upon blank spaces on the I-918 Supplement B forms, please notify ASISTA immediately.** Practitioners should consider implementing this practice in other ancillary forms (e.g. I-192, I-765) associated with the U filing.

D. Inform ASISTA of Rejections

Please keep ASISTA posted of any rejections based on this new alert by emailing questions@asistahelp.org.

Please also [reach out to ASISTA for technical assistance](#) if you filed a U visa application which was delivered on or after December 30, 2019 and you are concerned this alert may impact your filing.