**What is the VOICES Act?**

The Voices of Immigrant Communities Empowering Act, also known as the VOICES Act, was recently amended by the Illinois Way Forward Act (Public Act 102-0234). The VOICES Act allows “victims of qualifying criminal activity” to request a “certification form” or a law enforcement certification form or statement required by federal immigration law certifying that a person is a victim of qualifying criminal activity for use in applying for a U-Visa or T-Visa under the United States Code.

**Links to the Act**

The Illinois Way Forward Act (Public Act 102-0234) can be found here:   <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=102-0234&GA=102>

The Illinois VOICES ACT (5 ILCS 825/1) can be found here:
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=3916&ChapterID=2>

Who is eligible to participate?

Those individuals who are identified as “victims of qualifying criminal activity” as defined in the act who were involved in an incident investigated by the City of Robinson Police Department.

"Victim of qualifying criminal activity" means a person described in Section 1101(a)(15)(U)(i)(I) of Title 8 of the United States Code, in the definition of "victim of a severe form of trafficking" in Section 7102(14) of Title 22 of the United States Code, or in any implementing federal regulations, supplementary information, guidance, and instructions.

"Qualifying criminal activity" means any activity, regardless of the stage of detection, investigation, or prosecution, designated in Section 1101(a)(15)(U)(iii) of Title 8 of the United States Code, any implementing federal regulations, supplementary information, guidance, and instructions

How does someone apply?

### Step One:

Download the appropriate U-Visa or T Visa law enforcement certification form:

[U-Visa](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/i-918supb.pdf) (USCIS Form I-918 Supplement B)

[T-Visa](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/forms/i-914.pdf) (USCIS Form I-914 Supplement B)

### Step Two:

Complete Part 1 of the U-Visa or Part B of the T-Visa. Do not complete any other sections of the applications. Incorrectly completed forms may be rejected or may increase response time.

### Step Three:

Send the U-Visa or T-Visa law enforcement certification form to:

Sergeant Eric Schmidt
City of Robinson Police Department
Attn: VOICES Act
300 S. Lincoln Street PO Box 308
Robinson, IL 62454

## Do you need more information?

Sergeant Eric Schmidt has been designated by the Chief of Police to receive, review and respond to requests for completion of the certification form. He can also assist with questions relating to the VOICES Act. You can reach him by emailing him at eric.schmidt@robinsonpolice.org Mail can also be directly addressed to Sgt. Eric Schmidt, City of Robinson Police Department, 300 S. Lincoln Street, PO Box 308 Robinson Illinois, 62454