

CHAPTER 258F
CERTIFICATION FOR VICTIMS OF
VIOLENT CRIME AND HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
2024 Report



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1. Legislative Authority

Section 2 of Chapter 258F of the General Laws requires certifying entities to adopt a policy for completing and signing nonimmigrant status certification forms for: (i) victims of criminal activity who intend to petition for nonimmigrant visas under 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(U); and (ii) victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons who intend to petition for nonimmigrant visas under 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T).

Section 1 of the same chapter defines a certifying entity as “a law enforcement agency, prosecutor or other state or local entity that has the authority to detect, investigate or prosecute severe forms of trafficking in persons or criminal activity.”

Section 3 establishes a timeline for the certifying entity’s response to the victim and Section 4(a) requires that each certifying entity report to the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS): (i) the number of individuals that requested nonimmigrant status certification; (ii) the number of certification forms that were completed and signed; and (iii) the number of such requests that were denied.

Subsection (b) of Section 4 creates the authority for this report:

Annually, not later than April 1, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security shall file a report with the clerks of the house of representatives and the senate, the joint committee on the judiciary and the joint committee on public safety and homeland security on the information received under subsection (a). The report shall include, but not be limited to:

- (i) the number of individuals that requested nonimmigrant status certification, delineated by certifying entity;
- (ii) the number of certification forms that were completed and signed, delineated by certifying entity;
- (iii) the number of such requests that were denied, delineated by certifying entity; and
- (iv) total statewide statistics on nonimmigrant status certifications and denials. The report shall not include information that would allow the public to ascertain the identity of an individual requesting nonimmigrant status certification. The executive office shall also make the report publicly available on its website.

2. Data Gathering

In compliance with M.G.L. c. 258F, § 4(b), EOPSS compiled the data submitted by the certifying entities pursuant to § 4(a). To streamline the data-gathering process, EOPSS issued an electronic survey to certifying entities¹ requesting aggregate numbers for the required data points. The survey was sent to:

- Massachusetts State Police;
- Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association;
- Massachusetts District Attorneys Association;
- Massachusetts Sheriffs’ Association;
- Department of Correction;

¹ The Steering Committee developed the list of certifying entities.

- Executive Office of Health and Human Services²;
- Attorney General’s Office;
- Massachusetts Department of Children and Families;
- Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination;
- Massachusetts Division of Industrial Accidents³;
- Massachusetts Trial Court⁴;
- Massachusetts Department of Criminal Justice Information Services;
- Massachusetts Department of Mental Health⁵; and
- Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs.⁶

3. Calendar Year 2024 Data

The reporting requirements of M.G.L. c. 258F, § 4(b) took effect at the beginning of the fiscal year 2022. Below sets forth the required data received by EOPSS delineated by certifying entities for the calendar year 2024 (January 1, 2024 -December 31, 2024). Please note that the certification process for a request may spread across more than one calendar year. This may be because of the date the request was received or other circumstances related to the request requiring additional time. As such, requests may be at various stages of the process at the end of the calendar year and therefore may not be reflected in the certifications completed or denied for that year. The data is reported as it was submitted.

	Entity Name	How many individuals, from January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024, requested nonimmigrant status certification?	How many certification forms were completed and signed from January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024?	How many requests were denied from January 1, 2024-December 31, 2024?
1	Acton Police Department	0	0	0
2	Amesbury Police Department	0	0	0
3	Aquinnah Police Department	0	0	0
4	Arlington Police Department	1	1	0
5	Ashby Police Department	0	0	0
6	Ashfield Police Department	0	0	0
7	Attleboro Police Department	2	1	0
8	Attorney General's Office	20	5	7

² In response to the survey, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services responded that it is not a certifying entity pursuant to § 4(a).

³ In response to the survey, the Massachusetts Division of Industrial Accidents responded that it is not a certifying entity pursuant to § 4(a).

⁴In response to the survey, the Massachusetts Trial Court responded that it is not a certifying entity pursuant to § 4(a).

⁵ In response to the survey, the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health responded that it is not a certifying entity pursuant to § 4(a).

⁶ In response to the survey, the Massachusetts Office of Elder Affairs responded that it is not a certifying entity pursuant to § 4(a).

9	Ayer Police Department	1	0	1
10	Barnstable County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
11	Barnstable Police Department	10	6	3
12	Bedford Police Department	0	0	0
13	Bellingham Police Department	0	0	0
14	Berkshire County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
15	Berkshire County District Attorney's Office	6	4	0
16	Bernardston Police Department	0	0	0
17	Beth Israel Deaconess Police Department	0	0	0
18	Billerica Police Department	0	0	0
19	Boston Police Department	77 (an additional 5 were received but were not in our jurisdiction and were referred elsewhere)	30	15
20	Brandeis University Department of Public Safety	0	0	0
21	Bristol County District Attorney's Office	10	0	9
22	Bristol County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
23	Brockton Police Department	12	4	7
24	Bunker Hill Community College Police Department	0	0	0
25	Carver Police Department	0	0	0
26	Charlton Police Department	0	0	0
27	Conway Police Department	0	0	0
28	Danvers Police Department	0	0	0
29	Dartmouth Police Department	0	0	0
30	Department of Children and Families	19	19	0
31	Department of Criminal Justice Information Services	0	0	0
32	Dudley Police Department	0	0	0
33	Dukes County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
34	Dunstable Police Department	0	0	0
35	East Bridgewater Police Department	0	0	0
36	East Longmeadow Police Department	0	0	0
37	Edgartown Police Department	1 (referred to DA's office)	0	0
38	Essex County District Attorney's Office	103	69	43
39	Essex County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
40	Foxborough Police Department	0	0	0

41	Framingham Police Department	6	5	1
42	Framingham State University Police Department	0	0	0
43	Franklin County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
44	Granville Police Department	0	0	0
45	Great Barrington Police Department	0	0	0
46	Greenfield Police Department	0	0	0
47	Hampden County District Attorney's Office	1	1	0
48	Hampden County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
49	Hampshire County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
50	Hanson Police Department	0	0	0
51	Hardwick-New Braintree Police	0	0	0
52	Harvard Police Department	0	0	0
53	Hatfield Police Department	0	0	0
54	Haverhill Police Department	0	0	0
55	Holbrook Police Department	0	0	0
56	Hubbardston Police Department	0	0	0
57	Hudson Police Department	0	0	0
58	Huntington Police Department	0	0	0
59	Ipswich Police Department	0	0	0
60	Lee Police Department	0	0	0
61	Leominster Police Department	5	4	1
62	Leverett Police Department	0	0	0
63	Lincoln Police Department	0	0	0
64	Longmeadow Police Department	0	0	0
65	MA Department of Correction	0	0	0
66	Marlborough Police Department	APPROXIMATE - 20-25	APPROXIMATE - 20	APPROXIMATE - 1-2
67	Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination	7	7	0
68	Massachusetts State Police Department	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
69	MassBay Community College Police Department	0	0	0
70	Medfield Police Department	0	0	0
71	Medway Police Department	0	0	0
72	Middlesex County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
73	Middlesex District Attorney's Office	124	104	20
74	Middleton Police Department	0	0	0
75	Millbury Police Department	0	0	0
76	Millis Police Department	0	0	0
77	Milton Police Department	1	1	0
78	Nantucket County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0

79	Nantucket Police Department	1	1	0
80	Natick Police Department	4	3	1
81	Needham Police Department	0	0	0
82	Newbury Police Department	0	0	0
83	Norfolk County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
84	Norfolk District Attorney's Office (Hard Copy)	22	27	7
85	North Reading Police Department	0	0	0
86	Northborough Police Department	0	0	0
87	Northern Essex Community College	0	0	0
88	Northwestern District Attorney's Office	1	1	0
89	Norwood Police Department	4	3	1
90	Orleans Police Department	0	0	0
91	Oxford Police Department	0	0	0
92	Pelham Police Department	0	0	0
93	Pittsfield Police Department	2	2	0
94	Plymouth County District Attorney's Office	20	19	1
95	Plymouth County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
96	Provincetown Police Department	3	3	0
97	Raynham Police Department	0	0	0
98	Rockland Police Department	2	2	0
99	Rutland Police Department	0	0	0
100	Saugus Police Department	0	0	0
101	Sharon Police Department	0	0	0
102	Sherborn Police Department	0	0	0
103	Southborough Police Department	0	0	0
104	Southbridge Police Department	0	0	0
105	Southwick Police Department	0	0	0
106	Springfield Police Department	18	18	0
107	Sterling Police Department	0	0	0
108	Stockbridge Police Department	0	0	0
109	Stonehill College Police Department	0	0	0
110	Stow Police Department	1	1	0
111	Suffolk County District Attorney's Office	66	35	22
112	Suffolk County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
113	Templeton Police Department	0	0	0
114	Tyringham Police Department	0	0	0
115	Uxbridge Police Department	0	0	0
116	Waltham Police Department	10	6	4
117	Warren Police Department	0	0	0
118	Wayland Police Department	0	0	0

119	Wellfleet Police Department	0	0	0
120	West Tisbury Police Department	0	0	0
121	Westborough Police Department	0	0	0
122	Westfield Police Department	0	0	0
123	Weston Police Department	0	0	0
124	Whitman Police Department	0	0	0
125	Wilbraham Police Department	0	0	0
126	Winchester Police Department	0	0	0
127	Woburn Police Department	2	2	1
128	Worcester County District Attorney's Office	21	21	0
129	Worcester County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0
130	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	0	0	0
131	Worthington Police Department	0	0	0

The total statewide statistics on data received by EOPSS on nonimmigrant status certifications and denials from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, are illustrated below. Out of the 588 requests for nonimmigrant status certification, 391 forms were completed and signed, and 144 requests were denied.⁷

4. Steering Committee

Section 133 of Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021 created an interagency crime victim certification steering committee and gave EOPSS the authority to convene the committee. Currently, the committee is meeting bi-monthly to fulfill its requirements. The steering committee's activities include:

- (i) developing training materials for employees of certifying entities and other individuals who may interact with victims of criminal activity or victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons, including, but not limited to, victim advocates, court personnel, or state agency personnel;
- (ii) creating sample policies to be utilized by certifying entities; providing technical assistance to certifying entities; and
- (iii) monitoring the implementation of the policies required under chapter 258F.

As required by Section 133 the steering committee shall file a report with the clerks of the senate and house of representatives, the joint committee on the judiciary, and the joint committee on public safety and homeland security by December 31, 2023. The report will include:

- (i) a description of the activities of the steering committee;
- (ii) an overview of issues implementing the requirements of said chapter 258F;
- (iii) any recommendations to improve compliance with said chapter 258F; and
- (iv) any other information the steering committee deems relevant.

⁷ These final numbers do not include the range of 20-25 provided by Marlborough Police Department.

The report will also be made available on the EOPSS website.

5. Conclusion

EOPSS looks forward to continuing to collaborate with its many committed stakeholders, including the steering committee, to fulfill the requirements of M.G.L. chapter 258F and Section 133 of Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021.