*This template letter was created on 12/19/2024*

# DATE via: [Mailing Method]

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[Use the address listed for the state where you live

found under “Where to File” at https://[www.uscis.gov/i-589]](http://www.uscis.gov/i-589)

# Re: CLIENT NAME (AXXX-XXX-XXX)

1. **9, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal – *J.O.P.* Class Member**

Dear USCIS Official:

This office represents [Client’s Full Legal Name, “First Name”], (AXXX-XXX-XXX) in [his/her/their] asylum application. [Client name] was previously determined to be an unaccompanied child (“UC”) and is a member of the certified class in *J.O.P. v. DHS* (“Class Member”). Enclosed is [client name]’s Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal.

Under the *J.O.P. v. DHS* settlement agreement, USCIS must exercise initial jurisdiction over the asylum applications of Class Members like [client name] regardless of any pending removal proceedings or prior removal order, adjudicate Class Members’ asylum applications on the merits, and hold Class Members’ applications exempt from the one-year filing deadline.1 [Client name] is a *J.O.P.* Class Member due to:

* + having been previously determined to be a UC on or about [DATE];
  + hereby filing an asylum application with USCIS by February 24, 2025, which USCIS has not adjudicated on the merits; and
  + As of the date of this filing, [***choose one*]**
    - being 18 years of age or older, having reached the age of 18 on [date of 18th birthday].
    - having a parent or legal guardian in the United States available to provide care and physical custody.

**[*Include if relevant***] In short, although [client name] [is currently in removal proceedings] [has a prior removal order], USCIS must accept jurisdiction over [her/his/their] asylum application based on the prior UC determination. *See also* 8 U.S.C. §1158(b)(3)(C) (“An asylum officer . . . shall have initial jurisdiction over any asylum application filed by [a UC] ”).

Please find the following items enclosed:

1. Form G-28, Notice of Entry of Appearance as Attorney;
2. Form I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal;
3. ORR Verification of Release form as evidence of the prior UC determination; and
4. Applicant’s birth certificate with certified English translation.

1 *See* Settlement Agreement, *J.O.P. v. DHS*, sections III.A - C. The *J.O.P.* settlement agreement is available on the USCIS website at https://[www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/legal-docs/2024-JOP-settlement-](http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/legal-docs/2024-JOP-settlement-) agreement%20%28final%29.pdf.

Additional documentation in support of [client name]’s asylum application will be filed with the local asylum office prior to the interview. Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact me at (XXX) XXX-XXXX or [email address].

Respectfully,

[Name, Title] Encl.

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