



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

July 14, 2017

Archi Pyati
Chief of Policy and Programs
Tahirih Justice Center
6402 Arlington Blvd. Suite 300
Falls Church, VA 22042
Via email: archip@tahirih.org

Dear Ms. Pyati:

In light of our ongoing discussions regarding the Department of Homeland Security Victim Notification Exchange (DHS-VINE) system, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is providing the additional information below. This information supplements ICE's letter to the Tahirih Justice center dated May 26, 2017. Both letters are provided in response to Tahirih Justice Center correspondence with ICE dated May 12 and May 25 of this year raising concerns that information protected by 8 U.S.C. § 1367, may have been accessible via the DHS-VINE system.

ICE takes very seriously both its mission to promote public safety and its obligations to safeguard crime victims. In particular, ICE is committed to upholding the confidentiality provisions found in 8 U.S.C. § 1367, which includes protections afforded to those individuals seeking relief under the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000, specifically as VAWA self-petitioners, T or U visa applicants. Any disclosure of federally protected information that may have occurred in the context of the DHS-VINE system, specifically information subject to the protections afforded by 8 U.S.C. § 1367, was completely inadvertent, and ICE took immediate steps to implement additional measures to strengthen the information protections of the system. ICE can confirm that a global solution has been applied to ensure that 8 U.S.C. § 1367-protected information is not accessible via DHS-VINE. Any protected information that may have been inadvertently disclosed in the past is no longer available on the DHS-VINE database. Further, ICE has implemented corrective measures to ensure that the global solution applies to all individuals that currently have protected status and any individuals that gain protected status in the future.

ICE appreciates input from stakeholders such as the Tahirih Justice Center. ICE would encourage any person with concerns or knowledge of disclosures of federally protected information to contact ICE immediately at iceprivacy@ice.dhs.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin J. Clifford".

Erin J. Clifford
Chief
Government Information Law Division
ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor
U.S Department of Homeland Security