# STATEMENT 1 - PERSONAL BACKGROUND STATEMENT OF PETITIONER

Personal statements help to humanize the Petitioner, Beneficiary, and qualifying/non-qualifying relatives. They also alert us to the critical issues in the lives of those affected by the waiver application. If either the Petitioner or Beneficiary is not fluent in English, the document may be prepared in a foreign language, but must then be translated into English for us to read, with the appropriate Certification of Translation.

Please prepare the personal statement in Microsoft Word, if possible. Provide information under each subheading. If a subheading is not appropriate, please type “Not Applicable” under that heading.

Please label the file “Personal Background Statement of [Petitioner’s Name]” and include the following:

#### a. Petitioner’s History

Describe:

* Where born and raised
* Family members in immediate family (names, DOBs, relationship to Petitioner of Family members)
* What life was like growing up – hardships endured
* Brief history of prior trauma or abuse either in family of origin or any prior marriages
* List of family members (names, ages, residence location, relationship) living legally in the U.S.
* List of family members (names, ages, residence location, relationship) living overseas
* Brief history of prior marriages
* Post-secondary education background, vocational or other training
* Military Service History
* *IF NOT BORN IN U.S., describe:* How and why Petitioner immigrated to U.S.

#### b. Personal History of Petitioner and Beneficiary

If Beneficiary is spouse or fiancée, describe:

* How, when, and where Petitioner and Beneficiary met
* Describe course of courtship and marriage
* When and where married and why that location was chosen