

- You are a person of "good moral character," and
- Being deported would cause you and/or your children extreme hardship physically (due to the domestic violence), psychologically, medically, financially and emotionally.

ALWAYS REMEMBER...

...To keep copies and/or originals of passports, green cards, birth certificates, marriage certificate, immigration papers, and police and medical records. Keep copies/originals of both your documents and your children's and, if possible, your spouse's. Keep these copies and originals in a safe place.

ITEMS/DOCUMENTS TO KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE INCLUDE:

- ✓ **Identification and current status:** birth certificates, passports, INS documents
- ✓ **Proof of "good faith" relationship:** marriage certificate, wedding invitations, photos, etc.
- ✓ **Residence with abuser:** Lease or mortgage in your name (or both your and your spouse's names), income tax returns, gas/electric/water/cable bills, etc.
- ✓ **Good moral character of applicant (victim):** your affidavit, police clearance letters/background checks, etc.

**If you need help,
please call:**

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

1-800-787-3224 (TDD)

Se habla Español

**The Phone Number for the
Domestic Violence Program
in your area is:**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



**Immigrant and
Refugee
Women...**

THERE IS HELP!



**Nevada Network Against
Domestic Violence**
220 South Rock Blvd., Suite 7
Reno, NV 89502
Voice/TTY 775-828-1115
Fax 775-828-9911
www.nnadv.org

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is a term used to describe many types of abuse, including child abuse, spousal abuse, elder abuse, dating abuse, and sibling abuse. Physical violence is the most visible, but verbal and sexual abuse are considered the most permanently damaging. Domestic violence can occur between people involved in ongoing relationships, such as: adult relatives, husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends, same sex partners, parents and their children, etc.

DOES YOUR SPOUSE, PARTNER, LOVER, A FAMILY MEMBER, OR SOMEONE ELSE IN YOUR HOME...

...Make threats which cause you to fear for your safety or for the safety of others in your family?

...Call you names which are unacceptable to you, humiliate you at home or in public?

...Force you to have sex against your will?

...Threaten to deport you or turn you in to the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service)?

...Control where you can go, what you can do, whom you can see and/or whom you can talk to?

...Push, shove, hit, slap or bite you?

...Threaten you with a weapon?

If you could answer "yes" to any of these questions, you have experienced abuse. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.** Often being far from family, as well as being in a new country and culture, and not knowing the language is difficult. But it is worse when someone is hurting you. You have options and there is help.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

◆ **TALK TO SOMEONE IN YOUR COMMUNITY,** a trusted friend, family member, or clergy.

◆ **CALL YOUR LOCAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM.** They can provide services such as supportive peer counseling, emergency shelter, clothing, food, referrals, etc. Going to a shelter may give you time to think about what you need and what you want to do.

◆ **CALL THE NATIONAL HOTLINE (the number is listed on the back of this brochure).** Counselors are available to talk to you in your language, assist you in finding a domestic violence shelter in your area, and to offer you support in the decisions that you make.

◆ **CALL FOR POLICE PROTECTION.** You have the right to be protected by the police and the court, even if you are undocumented. If you think that you or your children are in danger, call the police (911). If the police ask about your immigration status or where you were born, **you have the right not to answer.**

◆ **GET MEDICAL SERVICES.** If you or your children are hurt or injured, you can go to your local hospital's emergency room.

◆ **GET A PROTECTION ORDER.** You may be eligible for an order of protection against domestic violence. These court orders can:

- Forbid any further threats, harassment or injury;
- Order the abuser to vacate (leave) or not to enter the shared home for a period of time;
- Award temporary custody and child support;
- Provide other relief the court considers necessary in an emergency situation.

To obtain information about where and when to file for protective orders, contact your local court clerk or call the domestic violence program in your area.

LAWS FOR BATTERED IMMIGRANTS:

If anyone threatens to deport you, it is important for you to know that they **cannot**. Only the **INS** (Immigration and Naturalization Service) can deport you. If you are a victim of domestic violence, you may be able to apply for Lawful Permanent Residency through the "Battered Spouse" Waiver, a Self-Petition, or a "T" or "U" Visa; if the INS has already initiated a case against you in immigration court, you may qualify for Cancellation of Removal. **Do not proceed on your own without first contacting a qualified immigration attorney! Contacting INS can have very serious consequences. Contact an immigration advocate or attorney or social service agency for assistance.**

IF YOU ARE BEING HURT BY YOUR HUSBAND, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENCY WITHOUT HIS COOPERATION.

WHEN APPLYING FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCY THROUGH THESE LAWS, THE INS WILL ASK YOU TO PROVE THAT:

- You were abused in the marriage. Keep records of the abuse, medical and police records, photos of bruises and/or injuries. Keep notes when contacting domestic violence programs or social workers.
- You were married in good faith. That is, you didn't marry just for a green card.
- You once resided with the abuser (although you don't have to be residing with him at the time of filing).

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