

A representative of the shelter can find you safe housing and emergency food. Some can also help you apply for public assistance or find a job. The representative can also help you with other problems or necessities by referring you to other agencies providing legal, social, or medical services.

What can I do if my children and I are not in this country legally?

Under the laws of VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) you can request a visa for yourself and your children if you can prove the abuse allegations. Consult with an immigration attorney.

What happens if I already divorced my abuser?

If you are divorced, it is possible to apply under VAWA if you have been divorced less than 2 years. Speak to an immigration lawyer immediately.

What can I do if I am being deported?

It is possible to apply for an “expulsion cancellation” if you are being deported. Speak to an immigration lawyer immediately.

Can I apply for a visa under VAWA if my abuser has been deported?

If fewer than 2 years have passed it is possible. Speak to an immigration lawyer immediately.



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**ABOGADOS PARA CAMPESINOS Y
JARDINEROS**

Domestic Violence

*Advocating and Litigating on Behalf
of Landscapers and Farmworkers
since 1999.*

www.fwadvocacy.org

What is “Domestic Violence”?

“Domestic Violence” is violence that regularly occurs at home between people who:

- Are or have been married
- Have or have had a romantic relationship
- Are close family members

Although violence is usually associated with physical injuries, it can also appear in the form of threats, isolation, emotional abuse, insults, or forceful intercourse.

If you are a victim of violence or domestic abuse, **YOU ARE NOT ALONE!!!** Although not much is talked about domestic violence abuses, these abuses are very common and likely affect people that you know. Domestic violence tends to get worse over time. It is important that you remember that you are not responsible for the abuse, and that there are things you can do to escape the cycle of abuse that is affecting you.

But what can I do?

Many resources exist and are available to you that will help you escape the violence in your house, such as: shelters, hospitals, the police, legal and community services.

Should I call the police?

If you are in immediate danger, leave immediately and find help. If you are in danger but can't leave, call 911.

You should be aware that domestic violence is a crime. The police are obligated to arrest the abusive partner if they believe a crime has been committed.

Should I leave my house if I am not safe there?

Yes! Go to the house of a friend or to a shelter for abused women. These shelters, generally, are free of charge and do not cost anything for their services, and there you will find people that can help you decide what you should do. They will also have information on other community services that can help you. If you want to stay with a friend or relatives, keep the location a secret.

What can I do if I need to leave in the future?

You should have a plan that you can use when you decide to leave. Prepare a small suitcase with your original or copies of your important documents, such as passports, licenses or identification. Keep this suitcase in a safe and secret place (for example, with a friend) where you can access it quickly.

What should I bring with me?

Whenever it is possible, take your children with you. If you can, also take with you several documents that will be of benefit to you later on, such as:

- driver's license or another type of identification information relating to the rental or purchase of a house
- birth certificates for yourself and your

children.

- social security card, passports, legal residency cards
- photographs of any injuries you may have suffered *information about your bank accounts
- marriage certificate
- check stubs from your employment and his, if possible
- clothes or other things damaged by the abuser

I have heard of a Personal Protection Order. What is that?

A personal protection order (PPO) signed by a judge can prohibit the abusive person from calling you on the phone, getting close to you or your children, or attack you or your family members. At the same time, you can ask for temporary custody of your children, and for the abusive person to be removed from your home. It is not necessary to be a citizen or resident.

How can I support myself and my children if we leave our home?

As part of the order of protection, the court can order the abuser to make monthly payments to support you and your children. Also, there are new laws which make it possible for victims of domestic violence (spouses and children) to qualify for public assistance and even receive permission to work.