

Local Resources

Greenfield

NELCWIT 413-772-0806 Toll-Free HOTLINE 1-888-249-0806 24hr/7days

SAFEPLAN court advocate 413-772-0806

Community Legal Aid 413-774-3747

Center for New Americans 413-772-0055

Orange

NELCWIT 978-544-9857 Toll-Free HOTLINE 1-888-249-0806 24hr/7days

SAFEPLAN court advocate 978-544-9857

Northampton

Safe Passage 413-586-5066 Toll-Free HOTLINE 1-888-345-5282 24hr/7 days

SAFEPLAN court advocate 413-586-4545

Community Legal Aid 413-584-4034

Center for New Americans 413-587-0084

Amherst/Belchertown

Center for Women and Community 413-545-0800

Toll-Free HOTLINE 1-888-337-0800 24hr/7 days

SAFEPLAN court advocate 413-323-1197

Center for New Americans 413-259-3288

Statewide

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

510-465-1984

Massachusetts Justice Project 1-800-639-1209

GLBTQ Domestic Violence Project

1-800-832-1901 Toll-Free HOTLINE 24hr/7days

"This project was supported by subgrant No. 2011 WF AX 0012 awarded by the state administering office for the STOP Formula Grant Program. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the state or the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women."

December, 2012

Are you afraid of your husband or intimate partner?

Are you a non-citizen of the United States?



Are you scared to go to the police for help?

WE WANT TO HELP!

**Project of Northwestern District Attorney
David E. Sullivan**



NorthwesternDA.org



Does your intimate partner.....

- # Want to know where you are all the time?
- # Tell you what clothes to wear?
- # Stop you from seeing friends or family?
- # Tell you that you are stupid, lazy, or bad?
- # Physically hurt you?
- # Say he will take the children away from you?
- # Threaten to kill you?

Does your intimate partner use your immigration status against you by.....

- # Saying the police will arrest YOU?
- # Threatening to have you deported?
- # Destroying your passport, ID cards, health insurance, or other important papers?

Does your partner use cultural or language barriers to confuse or mislead you by.....

- # Saying they can take away your citizenship or immigration status?
- # Lying about the laws of the United States?

If you answered YES to any of the above you could be in an abusive relationship AND IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT!

In the United States it is against the law for a person to physically abuse their Intimate Partner!!!



If you are an immigrant AND a victim of a crime you can apply for a U-VISA!!!

What is a U-VISA?

It is a U.S. government document that gives immigrants authorization to stay in the United States. If approved, you and your children can stay in the U.S. to work for 4 years. After 3 years from your initial application you can apply to become a permanent resident of the U.S. (green card).

How do I get one?

To get a U-Visa you will have to talk to the police about the crime and be willing to help with the case. Then you will have to get a letter of certification from a federal, state or local law enforcement official such as the police or district attorney's office.

The U.S. Government decides whether you are approved for the U-Visa.



Protections are also available under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Contact Community Legal Aid for more information



Should I stay or should I go?

Whether you have decided to leave or not, it's good to plan ahead in case you need to escape quickly.

Be prepared by hiding these items in a safe location:

- + Important documents: passports, citizenship documents, IDs, health insurance cards, medical records and financial records
- + Spare set of car keys
- + Two changes of clothes for you and your children
- + List of emergency phone numbers and extra cell phone with battery charged
- + Money that has been put aside

Practice how to get out safely and help your children practice too.

Contact a hotline on the back of this booklet to talk with someone who can help you make a safety plan.



There are places you can go for help regardless of your immigration status!

What Places?

~NELCWIT
Greenfield
~Safe Passage
Northampton
~Center for Women and Community
Amherst

~Community Legal Aid
Northampton

~Courthouses in
Greenfield, Northampton,
Orange, and Belchertown

~Phone numbers for these agencies are listed on the back of this pamphlet.

What Kind of Help?

Just to talk with someone who will listen and help you with a plan to keep you and your family safe

Help to secure legal immigration status

Court Advocate will explain options for getting a restraining order against your abuser

You don't have to share information if you don't want to.

You don't have to identify your immigration status if you don't want to.

You can apply for a Restraining Order at your local courthouse



What happens when I go to the courthouse?

- A Court officer will ask everyone to walk through a metal detector and submit to a bag search.
- You can **request an advocate** to help you through the process in the Clerk's Offices, which are located in all courthouses.
- You have the right to apply for a **Restraining Order**, which is a court document that can order your abuser to leave the home and stay away from you and your children.
- If you decide to apply for a Restraining Order the advocate will ask personal questions about your relationship and why you are afraid. You will be asked to write everything down in your own language. If you cannot write, an interpreter will assist you. It may be difficult to share private information, but it will help you to get the protection you need.
- **A judge will decide** whether or not to grant the restraining order.

You have the right to request assistance from a qualified interpreter who speaks your language.

What kind of protection does a Restraining Order offer?

You may ask to include any or all of the following orders:

Order the Abuser to:

- stop abusing you
- have **NO CONTACT** with you; he or she cannot contact you or your children by telephone calls, text, email or letters
- leave and stay away from your house and work
- abide by an order for temporary custody of your children
- pay temporary financial support
- surrender any keys to your house
- have police present when picking up belongings
- hand over all firearms



You can get a restraining order even if you are NOT a citizen of the United States.