



PROGRAM MATERIALS

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VAWA Petitions: Psychosocial Evaluation Strategies in Spousal Abuse Cases

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**VAWA Petitions:
Psychosocial Evaluation
Strategies in Spousal Abuse
Cases**

Books

Handbook of Mitigation in Criminal and Immigration Forensics: Humanizing the Client Towards a Better Legal Outcome. Seventh Edition. 2021

Psychosocial Evaluations and Consultation in Civil Litigation: Strategies to Understand and Humanize the Client. 2021.

**PSYCHOSOCIAL
EVALUATIONS AND
CONSULTATION IN
CIVIL LITIGATION:**

*Strategies to Understand
and Humanize the Client*

MARK S. SILVER

M.A., LCSW, PhD, JD

Handbook of Mitigation in Criminal and Immigration Forensics

Humanizing the Client
Towards a Better Legal
Outcome

SEVENTH EDITION

MARK S. SILVER
M.A., LCSW, PhD, JD.

Books (Con't)

- The Arranged Marriage: My Kalpa. (2017).
Highly recommended book. A full narrative of a spousal abuse case
- Res Ipsa Loquitor: The Mystery of the Dead Law School Dean. (2017).

Types of Cases Evaluated

- VAWA
- Deportation / Removal
- Waivers
- Asylum
- U Visas
- Detention
- Adam Walsh Act
- Motions to Re-Open & Appeals
- Criminal Mitigation in Immigration Cases
- Competency Evaluations (Matter of M-A-M)

Today's Outline

- Legal Background
- Types of Abuses
- Psychiatric Issues
- Challenges in the Psychosocial Evaluation

I. Legislative History

- The **Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA)** is a [United States federal law](#) (Title IV, sec. 40001-40703 of the [Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, H.R. 3355](#)) signed as [Pub.L. 103–322](#) by [President Bill Clinton](#) on September 13, 1994 (codified in part at 42 U.S.C. sections 13701 through 14040).
- The Act provides \$1.6 billion toward investigation and prosecution of violent crimes against women, imposes automatic and mandatory restitution on those convicted, and allows civil redress in cases prosecutors chose to leave un-prosecuted. The Act also establishes the [Office on Violence Against Women](#) within the [Department of Justice](#).

Legislative History Con't

- VAWA was drafted by the office of [Senator Joe Biden](#) (D-[DE](#)), with support from a broad coalition of advocacy groups. The Act passed through [Congress](#) with bipartisan support in 1994, clearing the [United States House of Representatives](#) by a vote of 235–195 and the [Senate](#) by a vote of 61–38, although the following year House [Republicans](#) attempted to cut the Act's funding. In the 2000 [Supreme Court](#) case [*United States v. Morrison*](#), a sharply divided Court struck down the VAWA provision allowing women the right to sue their attackers in federal court. By a 5–4 majority, the Court's conservative wing overturned the provision as exceeding the federal government's powers under the [Commerce Clause](#).

Legislative History Con't

- VAWA was reauthorized by bipartisan majorities in Congress in 2000, and again in December 2005, and signed by President [George W. Bush](#). The Act's 2012 renewal was opposed by [conservative](#) Republicans, who objected to extending the Act's protections to [same-sex couples](#) and to provisions allowing battered [undocumented immigrants](#) to claim [temporary visas](#).
- Ultimately, VAWA was again reauthorized in 2013, after a long legislative battle throughout 2012–2013.

TWO TYPES OF PETITIONS

- I-360 = This is for a self-petitioning battered or abused spouse
- I-751 = This is for a client who obtained a temporary two-year greencard through marriage and she is now applying to remove the conditions on her temporary greencard.

II. TYPES OF ABUSES

- Cycles of Abuse
- Pre-Abuse
- Physical abuse
- Psychological abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Verbal abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial / Employment abuse
- Religious abuse
- Child abuse
- Technological abuse
- Privations / withholding

NOT AN EVENT, BUT A SERIES OF EVENTS

- Repeated and chronic stressors
- Marinated in trauma
- Layers of trauma
- Purposeful
- Malignant
- Hateful

CYCLE OF ABUSE -> PATTERNS OF HARM

- (1) a physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse incident
- (2) followed by a “making up” period, during which the batterer may apologize for the abuse and promise that it will never happen again
- (3) this leads to a period of “calm,” during which the batterer acts as if the abuse never happened and the victim may hope the abuse is over
- (4) next comes the “tension building” when the batterer renews his anger and the victim feels the need to calm or appease him.
- (5) Finally, the tension builds into another incident of abuse and the cycle continues in this fashion unless and until the victim is able to escape the domestic violence permanently

NO CYCLE OF ABUSE

(similar to asylum cases)

- Patterns may not exist
- Abusers may act without reason or without known reason
- Arbitrary or Capricious
- Blind hatred - racism
- Psychopathy
- Idiosyncratic
- May be cultural
- Absence of pattern leads to greater psychological harm

IMMIGRANT WOMEN AS TARGETS

- Immigrant women (and men!) are particularly at risk for domestic violence. Due to their immigration status, they often have a more difficult time escaping abuse and feel trapped in abusive relationships because of immigration laws, few social supports, language barriers, and lack of financial resources, among other things.
- Abusers often use their partner's immigration status as a tool of control. In such a situation, it is common for a batterer to exert control over his partner's immigration status in order to force her to remain in the relationship.
- Immigrant women often suffer higher rates of battery than United States citizens since they come from cultures that may accept domestic violence or because they have less access to legal and social services in the United States

PRE-ABUSE

- Erosion of Trust
- Breakdown of Communication
- Hints of Real Issues
- Sub-clinical Issues
- First Problems

PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Physical abuse is defined as the unwanted contact by the abusing spouse to his partner
 - THIS IS A CRIMINAL ACT
- Direct: hit, kick, slap, push, shove, elbow, knee, spit, block, scratching, hair pulling, tripping
- Use of objects
- Threats by gun, knife (not uncommon)
- Indirect: turn off heat or AC, locked out of the home, locked in the home, strands
- Criminal history
- Abuse towards others

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

- Control (mail, phone calls, social contacts)
- 5 W's (where, when, why, who, & how)
- Manipulation (passive)
- Coercion (active)
- Isolation (psychological and physical)
- Sabotage Immigration Case (petition & appointments, or stealing documentation)
- Physical Absence (out all night or all weekend)

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Emotional Abuse (feelings / emotions)
- Related to but distinct from psychological abuses

VERBAL ABUSE

- Verbal abuse is defined as any negative or derogatory words directed at the abused spouse, including disguised jokes, accusing, blaming, judging and criticizing, trivializing, undermining, threatening, name-calling, and using demeaning terms
- Racial, cultural, or religious slurs
- Expletives – be specific!
- Threats of deportation
- Threats of death
- Threats of harm by others, especially extended family members
- Publically - In front of others (often the most embarrassing)
- Self-esteem harm (“you are worthless”) -> victim internalizes the abuse and begins to believe it

SEXUAL ABUSE

- Sexual abuse includes *any* unwanted (or unaware) sexual touching or contact
- Physical Harms
- Triggers, such as intoxication
- Wanted but not at the time
- Objects
- Forced: Cunnilingus, Analingus, Fellatio
- Anal sex – tissue damage, bleeding, pain
- Verbal sexual degradation
- Infidelity – betrayal of trust
- Disease - STDs

FINANCIAL ABUSE

- Financial abuse includes the withholding or misuse of personal or joint funds, including legal transactions. Financial abuse makes the abused spouse physically reliant on the abuser for food, shelter, and all other basic necessities, such as transportation money to travel to and from work.
- Prohibits victim from sending money to family of origin
- Loss of employment or restrictions
- Takes paycheck
- Withholds funds
- Extortion of money (this is a criminal act)
- Depletion of Joint Account
- Stealing, eg, jewelry, fom wallet, household items
- Selling common assets
- Rent
- Abuser spends without control – often on drugs

RELIGIOUS ABUSE

- False adherence
- Verbal denigration
- Racist slurs
- Embarrassment at Temple

CHILD ABUSE

- Abuse
- Neglect

Should the child be interviewed?

Is the child also a (potential) client?

Derivative harm to child of adult victim?

Technology Abuse

Control of digital devices

- The term ‘technological abuse’ means behavior intended to harm, threaten, intimidate, control, stalk, harass, impersonate, or monitor, except as otherwise permitted by law, another person, that occurs using the Internet, internet enabled devices, social networking sites, computers, mobile devices, cellular telephones, apps, location tracking devices, instant messages, text messages, or other forms of technology. Technological abuse may include—
 - “(A) unwanted, repeated telephone calls, text messages, instant messages, or social media posts;
 - “(B) non-consensual accessing e-mail accounts, texts or instant messaging accounts, social networking accounts, or cellular telephone logs;
 - “(C) controlling or restricting a person’s ability to access technology with the intent to isolate them from support and social connection;
 - “(D) using tracking devices or location tracking software for the purpose of monitoring or stalking another person’s location;
 - “(E) impersonating a person (including through the use of spoofing technology in photo or video or the creation of accounts under a false name) with the intent to deceive or cause harm; or
 - “(F) sharing or urging or compelling the sharing of another person’s private information, photographs, or videos without their consent

Neglect / Privations / Withholding

Acts of Omission (Child Neglect)

Failure to provide needs or to protect from harm or potential harm

- Acts of omission are the failure to provide for a child's basic physical, emotional, or educational needs or to protect a child from harm or potential harm. Like acts of commission, harm to a child might not be the intended consequence. The following types of neglect involve acts of omission:
- Physical neglect
- Emotional neglect
- Medical and dental neglect
- Educational neglect
- Inadequate supervision
- Exposure to violent environments
- JUST AS ABUSE CAN BE REPEATED AND CHRONIC, NEGELCT CAN ALSO BE REPEATED AND CHRONIC
- Just as abuse can be repeated / chronic, neglect can also be repeated / chronic. Example, repeated disappointment of a father not showing up for a birthday leading to feelings of abandonment and foolishness.

3 CAVEATS

- SEVERITY OF A SINGLE INCIDENT CAN BE SYSTEMICALLY DAMAGING
- MICRO-AGRESSIONS ADD UP TO SYSTEMICALLY DAMAGING ABUSE
- PEOPLE PERCEIVE AND ARE EFFECTED BY ABUSE (AND HARM) IN IDIOSYNCRATIC WAYS
- RESILIENCE – AN INDIVIDUAL'S ABILITY TO OVERCOME ADVERSITY

PROFILE OF THE ABUSER

Antisocial Personality Disorder / Psychopathy (Hare checklist)

- pervasive pattern of disregard for the well-being of others
- fails to follow the laws or norms of society
- acts in a deceitful way or with reckless behavior
- disregards the safety of others
- displays general irresponsible and even child-like behaviors
- leads a parasitic life-style
- displays a lack of genuine remorse even after being physically abusive
- glib about the harm he causes
- acts with superficial charm
- history of arrests
- paranoid
- Impulse control disorders

Male vs. Female Abusers

Males: Psychopathy (see previous slide)

Females: Borderline Personality Disorder

- Erratic moods
- Unstable behaviors
- Suicidal threats
- Transient psychosis
- Internal sense of emptiness
- Fears of abandonment
- Projects fears and anxieties
- Intense periods of anger

Huge Overlap

CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE ABUSE

- No less serious
- Objective stance
- Family / cultural history

DRUG ABUSE BY ABUSER

- The abuser may have a substance abuse problem or addiction to either licit or illicit substances. Some abusers only abuse their spouses when they are intoxicated and may recall little if any of their behaviors.
- When the abuser acts remorseful following an abusive incident the sentiment can be quite genuine because the absence of memories of the abuse due to intoxicating effects of drugs makes the incident foreign and unreal to the abuser.
- The abuser may not use substances in the home or even in the presence of the abused spouse, however symptoms may be apparent.
- Possession, buying, and selling of substances should be noted as well.
- Alcohol MAGNIFIES all abuse issues

III. VICTIM'S MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Neurological and Cognitive

Trauma fundamentally effects:

- Brain and nervous system dysregulation - > emotional dysregulation
- Permanent state of terror -> neurological changes
- Never regain emotional equilibrium
- constant distress and pain and suffering / no exit door
- never feeling at ease or self-confident or safe / stable / secure again
- how we process information or learn new information
- lose train of thought or even right words
- memory (including short-term / long-term memory)
- How he understand ourselves / others / hard to communicate with others
- shapes our values
- how we contend with our surroundings
- decision-making, planning, insight, judgment
- overreactive nervous system / exaggerated startled response

Emotional Consequences

- Shame / humiliation
- Fears and anxieties as a way of life (generalized)
- Constant exhaustion / feeling overwhelmed
- Cannot modulate anger / rage
- Feeling of inescapable helplessness
- Tendency to overreact / Hypervigilance
- Normal coping mechanisms are undermined or absent
- Unable to process fight or flight responses
- Feeling of incompetence, worthlessness, uselessness, stupidity, inadequacy
- Chronic sense of betrayal, deception, and distrust of others -> and even oneself
- I must have done something wrong / bad to be abuses / neglected
- Distrust of intimacy
- Hopes and dreams undermined -> despair, dark, and doom as a chronic outlook -> existence = suffering
- Loss of faith in value and God / time stands still
- Existential negativity -> Life makes no sense / meaningless existence

PTSD

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD):

- Person experienced, witnessed, or was confronted with an event(s) that involved actual or threatened death or serious injury, or a threat to the physical integrity of self or other
- Stressor: Person responds with intense fear, helplessness, or horror
- Intrusion symptoms: Re-experiences
- Avoidance of stimuli associated with the trauma
- Negative alterations in cognitions and mood
- Alterations in arousal and reactivity

DEPRESSION

- depressed mood nearly every day, as indicated by subjective feelings of sadness and emptiness and crying
- hopelessness / helplessness
- low energy
- anhedonia (crucial)
- low self-esteem
- psychomotor retardation / agitation
- fatigue or loss of energy
- feelings of worthlessness or excessive or inappropriate guilt (which may be delusional)
- poor or erratic appetite
- significant difficulty staying or falling asleep / nightmares
- diminished ability to think or concentrate, or indecisiveness

Suicidality

- Suicidality may be either active or passive. Active suicidality occurs when the person has a plan to end her own life, such as by the ingestion of medications. Active suicidality most often is characterized by deep psychological pain or despair and a hopeless belief that nothing in the person's life can improve in any meaningful way.
- Passive suicidality concerns thoughts of death or dying and may include the person stating that they wonder what it would be like never having to wake up so that their pain would vanish. Passive suicidality is usually more ideational, while active suicidality is often accompanied by a thought out plan that may or may not be realistic or even coherent.
- Helpless feelings of despair / deep psychological pain
- Self-hatred, useless burden, lack of reciprocal connection
- habituated w pain

Feelings of Worthlessness / Learned Helplessness

- Feelings of worthlessness or excessive or inappropriate guilt (which may be delusional)
- Victims of abuse often feel shame, humiliation, and self-blame for having become intimately involved with an abuser.
- She is made to feel worthless and unloved yet remained helpless and trapped in a dangerous environment

Panic Attacks - recurring and unexpected

- Chest tightness
- Shortness of breath or hyperventilation
- Heart palpitations or a racing heart
- Chest pain or discomfort
- Trembling or shaking
- Choking feeling
- Feeling unreal or detached from your surroundings
- Sweating
- Nausea or upset stomach

Somatization / Conversion Disorder

- Chronic trauma / anxiety / mental illnesses that cause bodily symptoms, including pain. The symptoms can't be traced back to any physical cause and not the result of substance abuse or another mental illness.
- People with somatoform disorders are not faking their symptoms. The pain and other problems they experience are real and symptoms can significantly affect daily functioning.
- Conversion Disorder is a functional neurological symptom disorder
- Immune system dysfunction
- Poor Sleep / insomnia / fatigue / generally feeling unwell

Psychosis

- Delusion (False belief): Adaptive paranoia for self-protection (PPD). Person is guarded, suspicious, or has low trust in others.
- Hallucinations (False perceptions): auditory and visual hallucinations. Rooted in hypersensitivity to real or perceived dangers of the surrounding environment

Dissociative Disorder

When flight or fight are not available then the only option is to psychologically / emotionally remove yourself from that situation and place your self somewhere else. (versus fawning or freezing).

Dissociative disorders are conditions that involve disruptions or breakdowns of memory, awareness, identity, or perception. People with dissociative disorders use dissociation as a defense mechanism, pathologically and involuntarily.

Atypical Issues

- Subclinical

IV. Challenges in the Psychosocial Evaluation

PSYCHOSOCIAL EVALUATION

Psychosocial evaluations with special consideration for spousal abuse issues

- Family-Systems Analysis
 - Childhood Development
 - Social Skills & Peer Rejection
 - Sexual Development
 - Hobbies & Interests
 - Community Ties, Friends
 - Education & Employment
 - Finances & Poverty
 - Military Service
 - Self-care (ADL's)
 - Drug & Alcohol History
- Violence, Abuses, Trauma, War
 - Volunteer Community & Charity
 - Arrests & Criminal History
 - Languages - spoken/written
 - Role & Communication
 - Legal Issues
 - Religious Devotion
 - Support System/Caregivers
 - Cultural Issues & Role Models
 - Mental (DSM) & Medical Health
 - Racism & Prejudice

Psychosocial History

Psychosocial histories should be garnered with consideration for the client's family of origin and community. This has a dual purpose:

- First, the individual may have experienced physical and emotional abuse even in her family of origin and, second, it helps to normalize the process.
- Second, it is my experience that abuse tends to be systemic in nature and the psychosocial history will uncover persecution in unsuspected areas.
- Moreover, beginning solely with the abuses tends to reinforce the pathology of her personal experience. It can be quite helpful to begin with pleasant memories from childhood when the individual may still have enjoyed love and care in her family of origin.

GETTING HELP

- Mental health clinic with full resources are best b/c it tends to be psychiatrically holistic
- Support Groups
- Psychiatric Care
- Psychotherapy
- Spiritual / Religious Support
- Self Support
- Friends / Family
- Leave Well Enough Alone

Failure to Seek Mental Health Assistance

- ignorance
- shame
- lack of financial resources
- fear of authority or government workers
- feelings of depression and anxiety that prohibit the individual from accessing proper healthcare even during periods of acute danger
- survivors may feel that people who did not experience what they did simply would not understand or believe the experiences.
- it may be the first time that she has spoken about her experiences
- Anathema / Stigma

WHO SHOULD EVALUATE A SPOUSAL ABUSE CASE?

- Experts only!
- General mental health practitioners may not have the sensitivity or training, and may therefore miss out on key issues
- An evaluation is not therapy and must aggressively target areas of possible abuse to the client's benefit

Intellectual & Educational Limitations

- Clients may have low education, illiterate, or mental health limitations that help explain the reason for the client's poor self-advocacy
- In such cases clients must be permitted to relate their story in a manner consistent with their level of ability and comfort

Over & Under Exaggeration

- Client's may over exaggerate narratives in an effort to bolster a weak claim and under exaggerate a narrative because he fears the truth is simply too terrible to relate or to be believed
- Correcting for one or both will make the narrative clearer, particularly as extraneous material tends to denigrate the underlying narrative of the petitioner's claim

Professional Expression to Replace Self Expression

- Personal expression can be replaced by professional expression ensuring that the thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and experiences of the client are fully expressed with the factual underpinnings
- there may be a significant trove of valuable information that can be mined by an evaluation elucidating the individual's personal and community history

U Visa Considerations

- Psychological issues with regard to reporting the crime and assisting the DA's office
- Re-living the event
- Victim to rights advocate
- Broader criteria than VAWA

Denials / RFE

- Second chance
- Review the material
- Ask what is missing
- Update the case
- Supportive documentation

V. Spousal Abuse Questionnaire

Physical Abuses

- Did he ever hit, slap, or punch you?
- Did he ever grab, push, or shove you?
- Did he ever kick, knee, or elbow you?
- Did he ever pull your hair?
- Did he ever scratch or pinch you?
- Did he ever strangle or choke you?
- Has he ever hurt you with any kind of object?
- Has he ever thrown objects at you?
- Did he ever force you to take drugs or any food that you did not want?
- Has he ever damaged the home or your property by violence?

Physical Abuses con't

- Did he ever take your belongings?
- Has he ever threatened you in any way with a gun or knife?
- Have you ever suffered major or even minor physical injury, such as bruising or cuts?
- Did he ever physically isolate you or force you from the home or lock you out or inside your room?
- Did he ever prohibit you from communicating with others, such friends or family?
- Did he have a criminal record and he has ever been arrested?
- Has he ever been violent with anyone else in the home or community?
- Did you ever call the police or did he ever call the police and what were the results?
- Did he ever stay out of the home all night or even for a few days? And, did this cause you anxiety and/or fear?
- Did he ever show up at your place of work or home unexpectedly?
- Does he treat you as a personal servant?
- Did he stalk you or harass you after your break-up?

Drug Abuse

- Does he abuse, sell, or own drugs and if so does this harm you in any way?
- Does he become more aggressive or violent because of alcohol or drugs?
- Does he often waste money on buying drugs?
- Does he blank out when using drugs and become remorseful the next day because he can't remember hurting you?
- Does he show symptoms of intoxication and/or withdrawal?
- Does his mood and/or behavior change in a negative way when he uses alcohol or drugs?
- Is he unable to take responsibility for his behavior because of the alcohol or drug abuse?
- Does he repeatedly refuse drug rehabilitation or counseling?

Sexual Abuse

- Did he ever touch you sexually or non-sexually in an unwanted way?
- Did he force you to have sex—physically or psychologically? That is, did you feel coerced or manipulated into have sex?
- Did he force you to engage in oral or anal sex? On you or your partner or both?
- Did he ever harm you sexually with objects?
- Did he force you to touch him or do things to him that you did not want?
- Did he force you to do things to you sexually or otherwise?
- Did he insist on sexual intercourse when you are frightened?
- Did you feel hypervigilant about when you would be attacked?
- Did he violently pull or squeeze you or cause you physical harm such as bruises?
- Did you generally suffer pain during sex?
- Did you suffer medical or physical issues because of these abuses?
- Did he force you to watch pornography?
- Did he have sex with other men or women?
- Did you have STDs from him?
- Did he force you to abort a pregnancy?

Emotional Abuse

- Does he cause you emotional or psychological pain?
- Does he cause you to feel humiliation or degradation?
- Does he cause you mental cruelty?
- Does he isolate you so you feel you are alone in the world?
- Does he taunt or tease you?
- Does he not allow you to express yourself as you wish?
- Does he manipulate, control, or coerce you?
- Does he lie?
- Is he cold, distant, and uncaring?
- Does he provoke fear to better assert control over you?
- Do you perceive him as threatening?
- Does he minimize your abilities?
- Do you suffer relentless criticism?

Emotional Abuse Con't

- Does he intentionally destroy the relationship between you and your family or friends?
- Does he try to control your social interactions by opening mail (for immigration material), monitoring telephone calls, and screening who you could see or speak to?
- Does he prevent you from speaking about his dangerous behavior?
- Does the anxiety over his controlling actions mean that you could not think clearly or behave in a way that is healthy for you?
- Do you feel unable to extricate yourself from this destructive relationship?
- Do you suffer intimidation or does he try to elicit fear?
- Does he threaten to hurt himself if you do not comply with his demands?
- Does he influence your behavior through emotional manipulation, such as crying or yelling?
- Does he threaten to harm you or family or friends?
- Does he sabotage your personal accomplishments, such as destroying a completed project or product?
- Does he pressure you to make a serious commitment such as living together or getting engaged after a short period?
- Does he show glibness about the harm he causes or act with superficial charm?
- Is he overly jealous or possessive?
- Does he question you about every person you interact with?
- Does he accuse you of flirting with others without justification?
- Does he interrupt you or your time by calling or dropping by without notice?

Verbal Abuse

- Did you suffer negative or derogatory words, including disguised jokes, accusing or blaming, judging and criticizing, trivializing, undermining, disgusting expletives, threatening words, name-calling, or demeaning terms?
- What are examples of those expletives?
- Did he yell and scream in a harsh and loud tone?
- Did he insult your ethnicity and the fact that you are a recent immigrant to the United States?
- Did he verbally abuse you in front of others, such as friends and the children making the pain all the worse?
- Did he assert that you had no value as a person in his absence?
- Did the verbal abuse cause you to feel badly about yourself and question your sense of self-worth even believing the derogatory language used?
- Did he threaten your safety directly or indirectly?
- Would he often interrupt you, especially when others are present?
- Did he deflate you by spreading rumors?
- Did he issue actual or implied threats verbally or written form?
- Did he threaten to damage your property?
- Did he note that he could arrange for others to harm you?
- Did he spread rumors about you or otherwise defame or slander you?

Technology Abuse

- Did he share your personal information with others, such as on the Internet?
- Did he intend to harm, threaten, intimidate, control, stalk, harass, impersonate, or monitor you by technology?
- Did he initiate unwanted, repeated telephone calls, text messages, instant messages, or social media posts?
- Did he initiate non-consensual accessing of e-mail accounts, texts or instant messaging accounts, social networking accounts, or cellular telephone logs?
- Did he initiate controlling or restricting your ability to access technology with the intent to isolate you from support and social connection?
- Did he initiate tracking devices or location tracking software for the purpose of monitoring or stalking your location?
- Did he impersonate you (including through the use of spoofing technology in photo or video or the creation of accounts under a false name) with the intent to deceive or cause you harm?
- Did he initiate, share, or urge or compel the sharing of your private information, photographs, or videos without their consent?

Financial Abuse

- Did he ever prevent you from getting a job or maintaining your job?
- Did he ever misuse funds from a joint bank account?
- Did he ever impermissibly use your ATM card?
- Did he ever directly steal from you?
- Did he ever extort money from you?
- Did he ever demand that you give over your paycheck to him?
- Did he ever prevent you from giving money to family members who need it?
- Did he ever neglect giving proper financial support to the children?
- Did he ever spend money in an irresponsible manner, such as on drugs?
- Was he in debt?
- Did he gamble?
- Did he assume control over your resources and assets?
- Was he often out of work or did he stop working because he assumed that you would support him?

Cultural and Religious Abuse

- Did he ever ridicule your religion or ethnic background, or cultural customs?
- Did he ever prevent you from religious practice and/or religious expression of your faith?
- Did he ever force you to do anything that was contrary to your religious beliefs?

THANK YOU !