

Client Hypothetical Case: Maura

Maura is a 17 years old from Mexico. She came to the U.S. at age 5, crossing the border with her mother. When Maura was 15 years old, her mother married Jose, a lawful permanent resident abuser. After enduring 5 years in the abusive household and sexual advances from her step-father, Maura left home and moved in with her boyfriend Juan. Juan started battering Maura when she became pregnant with their child. During an incident of abuse, the neighbors heard Maura screaming and called the police. When they arrived, Maura described the incident to the police officer, but fearing that she would get deported, she did not appear at the hearing on the domestic violence charge. The charge was amended to misdemeanor battery. Juan pled no contest and was convicted of battery.