

# Case Scenario (Handout)

Clara met Eduardo, a naturalized U.S. citizen, when he came back to his hometown to visit his family in El Salvador. Eduardo started dating Clara, who was raising her 9-year-old son Miguel. After Clara became pregnant and gave birth to a baby girl Lupe, Eduardo decided to bring Clara, Miguel, and Lupe to the U.S. to live with him. When they arrived in the U.S. Eduardo took Clara, Miguel, and Lupe's passports and became physically and sexually abusive of Clara and abusive of Miguel who tried to protect his mother from Eduardo's abuse. Eduardo also physically beat Lupe when he said she "misbehaved". Within a year following their arrival in the U.S. Eduardo forced both Clara and Miguel to work for his family's business and never paid them for their labor. One night when Miguel was 13 and Lupe was 5, Eduardo's rage led to severe beatings with a belt to Miguel and Lupe. When Clara intervened to protect the children, Eduardo strangled her until she passed out. The neighbors called the police for help, and Clara talked to police when they arrived. The police arrested Eduardo for attempted murder and child abuse, took Clara to the hospital, and placed the children in the care of the state.