

***CASES DOCUMENTING ABUSE BY U.S. CITIZENS AND
LAWFUL RESIDENTS OF IMMIGRANT SPOUSES***

Compiled For:

Ayuda, Inc.
Asian Law Caucus
Family Violence Prevention Fund
NLG National Immigration Project
San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
Coalition for Immigrant Rights and Services/Immigrant Women's Task Force

Compiled By:

Robin L. Campo
San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation
49 Powell Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

Leni Marin
Family Violence Prevention Fund
1001 Potrero Bldg. One, Suite 200
San Francisco, CA 94110

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

II. CASES

1. Tomoko, Japan
2. Cecilia, Dominican Republic
3. Dolores, Mexico
4. Cecilia, South American Country
5. Sujata, India
6. Laura, Bangladesh
7. Anna, West Indies
8. Hiromi, Sweden
9. Melbis, Columbia
10. May, Hong Kong
11. Theresa, Mexico
12. Helena, Romania
13. Meeta, India
14. Christina, Philippines
15. Antonia, Dominican Republic
16. Carmella, Mexico
17. Lita, Poland
18. Danielle, India
19. Constance, Mexico
20. Sarah, Panama
21. Debbie, China
22. Ariel, Mexico
23. Shamika, Nigeria
24. Jacqueline, Peru
25. Anita, Mexico
26. Catrina, Mexico
27. Maria, Columbia
28. Eva, Poland
29. Carmen, El Salvador
30. Shanhi, India
31. Diana, Mexico
32. Rhoini, Bangladesh
33. Rosa, Paraguay
34. Ping, China
35. Sabina, Columbia
36. Dora, Africa
37. Monique, Middle Eastern Country
38. Sandra, Mexico
39. Coretta, unknown
40. Vangi, Pakistan
41. Liliana, El Salvador

III. ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING CASES

INTRODUCTION

The following pages contain stories of women who were, or are, victims of domestic violence. They have been gathered from domestic violence agencies, domestic violence shelters and immigration attorney's from around the country. These cases are only a sampling of the thousands of immigrant women across the country that are victims of domestic violence and whose situations are compounded by their immigration status. These pages contain few success stories. Where immigrant and refugee battered women have succeeded in escaping violence and securing immigrant status, it has been the result of the tireless efforts of counsel, domestic violence advocates and counselors.

Existing immigration laws foster domestic violence. The law allows U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to file petitions for their spouses to obtain legal permanent residency through the marriage. Citizen and resident spouses choose when and whether to file visa petitions and they can revoke those petitions that they choose to file at any time prior to the issuance of legal permanent residency to their spouse. These legal procedures ensure that citizen or legal permanent resident spouses retain full and complete power and control over the lives of their undocumented spouses. This power to deport a spouse at any time provides citizen and legal permanent resident batterers with a powerful tool to hold battered spouses and family members in abusive relationships. Some of the women whose stories are contained here live under conditions akin to slavery.

Ayuda, in Washington, D.C. is currently undertaking a survey among undocumented and recently documented Latina women in the D.C. Metropolitan area to further understanding of domestic violence and social service needs of women in Latino communities. Significant focuses of this survey include: determining the incidence rate of domestic violence among undocumented Latina women; exploring the connection between domestic violence and immigration; and exploring the dynamics of domestic violence in Latino families. One characteristic that distinguishes this survey from others previously conducted is that all of the interviews are being conducted by formerly battered Latina women. A review of the surveys conducted to date provides the following preliminary results:

- The incidence rate of battering and extreme mental cruelty suffered by undocumented or recently documented Latina women is 60%.
- The percentage of undocumented or recently documented Latina women who are married to U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents is 8.3%.

- Among undocumented or recently documented Latina women who are married to U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents is 77%
- In 69% of the cases where undocumented or recently documented Latina women were married to U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents the citizen or resident spouse never filed a visa petition on behalf of the undocumented spouse. When visa petitions were filed, delays in filing papers ranged from a year and a half to 9 years.

Cases were submitted by the following organizations: AYUDA in Washington, DC; The Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, CA; San Benito Victim/Witness Assistance Program in Hollister, CA; Hostos Center for Women and Immigrants' Rights in New York, NY; A Women's Place in Merced, CA; Sanctuary for Families in New York, NY; YWCA Women's Shelter in Santa Rosa, CA; Project Sanctuary in Ukiah, CA; Texas Council on Family Violence in Austin, TX; MANAVI in Montville, NJ; New York Asian Women's Center in New York, NY; A Women's Place in Urbana, IL; Polish Welfare Association in Chicago, IL; The Immigrant Rights Office in Los Angeles, CA; Prudence Crandall Center for Women in New Britain, CT; Ass. of the Bar of the City of New York in New York, NY; Cameron House in San Francisco, CA; SAKHI for South Asian Women in New York, NY; Clackamas Women's Services in Milwaukie, OR; The Law Offices of Rabinowitz and Rabinowitz in Dallas, TX; CAWC in Chicago, IL; Haven Women's Center in Modesto, CA; Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Madison, WI; Riverside County Coalition for Alternatives to Domestic Violence in Riverside, CA; The Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County in San Luis Obispo, CA; WOMAN, INC. in San Francisco, CA; El Refugio in Silver City, NM; Mujeres Latinas En Accion in Chicago, IL; SAFE in Vallejo, CA; Mother Lode Women's Center in Sonora, CA; St. Paul's Intervention Center in St. Paul, MN; SEC in Eugene, OR; and AWARE, INC. in Lakeport, CA. These organizations, and others, that work in the field of domestic violence see countless numbers of women that share similar experiences to the case scenarios contained in the following pages. We hope that the stories of these domestic violence victims will spur others to work toward changing U.S. immigration laws so that these laws can no longer be used to shatter the lives and hopes of battered immigrant women and children.

This report was compiled by Robin L. Campo, San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation and Leni Marin, Family Violence Prevention Fund. Assistance was provided by Leslye E. Orloff, Ayuda; William R. Tamayo, Asian Law Caucus and Vanessa Chien, Asian Law Caucus.

* In the following pages an asterisk (*) appears next to all names signifying that the names have been changed to protect the identities of those involved in these incidents.

This case came from the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, California.

TOMOKO

Tomoko* is 43 years old and originally from Osaka, Japan. She first met her husband Joe* a United States Citizen, on July 4 1987 in Osaka, Japan where he was stationed with the US Navy. They dated throughout 1987 and 1988. In March 1988, during an argument Joe slapped Tomoko for the first time and drenched her in the shower with her clothes on. In June 1988, Joe broke the sign of a store in Osaka, Japan and was consequently jailed for 9 days. Tomoko posted the bail for his release and Joe was subsequently placed under restrictions by the court.

In August of 1988 Tomoko tried to break up with Joe. He slapped her and threatened her with a piece of broken glass saying, "If you leave me, I will kill you". In October 1988, Tomoko told him that she was leaving him. Joe slapped her, pushed her down a couple of times on to the floor, and tore her passport and 5,000 yen bill into pieces. Joe threatened her saying, "If you leave me, I am going to tell your parents that you are going out with a black man." He also cried and pleaded with Tomoko not to leave him.

In November of 1988 Joe was suddenly reassigned to the United States. He asked Tomoko to join him in the United States so that they could get married. Tomoko still very much in love with Joe arrived in San Francisco in January of 1989. Joe took her to his grandmother's house in San Francisco to live. Although Joe could have filed for immigration papers for Tomoko, he did not.

Joe was later assigned to a ship in Los Angeles. On a visit to San Francisco in April, 1989 he slapped Tomoko several times, grabbed her face and dug his fingers into her eyes, he picked her up, and threw her down on the sidewalk. She landed on her back causing great pain. Joe is 6'1", approximately 165 lbs. Tomoko was 5'1" and 120 lbs at the time. The next morning, however, Joe saw Tomoko's red-eyes and bruises, and apologized, cried and promised that he would never hit her again. Ten days later Joe married Tomoko in San Francisco Superior Court and they moved into a San Francisco apartment together.

In August of 1989, Joe ordered Tomoko out of the house. While she was packing he attacked her, burned some of her clothing and pushed her out of the door. The manager called the police, but Joe convinced Tomoko to ask them to leave. Once the police had left he became enraged, ripped Tomoko's clothes off, punched her, smothered her mouth with a pillow and threatened that if she left him he would kill her.

Later that day she called a taxi and tried to escape. Joe told the taxi driver to leave and hit Tomoko on the head, punched her below her eye, covered her mouth with his hand so that she could not scream and dragged her into the bedroom where he threatened to kill

her. Joe placed a pillow over Tomoko's head and began cutting her hair and her pubic hair while taunting her and laughing at her. He held a mirror up to her face so that Tomoko could see that she could no longer go out in public because people would make fun of her. He stated: "I'll make sure you can't have sex with another man. Right now, you're ugly. Nobody wants you." He continued cutting her hair while she cried and pushed her arms down with his elbows so she could not move. He waved a 6" straight razor at her face and choked her. He threatened to shave off her pubic hair even more so that she would not be attractive to any man. Joe told her "If you move or if you call the police, I will kill you." He then proceeded to rape her three times and repeatedly stated: "If you leave me, I want you to know that I can really kill you. That's easy." He continued to beat her and rape her while holding a straight razor and threatening to kill her. He forced her into the bathroom, drenched her with cold water and washed her hair, body and the inside of her mouth with dishwashing liquid. When he fell asleep she escaped to the manager's house to use the telephone, there was no telephone in the apartment. She called the police and pressed charges. Joe was held in jail for 5 weeks pre-trial.

While Joe was in jail the police assisted Tomoko in finding housing and financial assistance. However, they told her that if she divorced Joe she could not continue to receive assistance. Stress led Tomoko to a mental breakdown for which she was taken to the hospital. While she was in the hospital Joe's relatives repeatedly visited her and urged her to drop the charges so that Joe would not spend 16 years in jail. Joe begged her to take him back, swearing that he had changed. Joe plea bargained to a misdemeanor, was released from jail and was placed in a diversion program and in counseling. For six months following his release from jail Joe was not physically abusive to Tomoko. However, in December 1989 Joe destroyed Tomoko's passport for the third time.

In January 1990 Joe and Tomoko moved to Los Angeles. Joe again became enraged over complaints from Tomoko about his affairs with other women. He stuffed a blanket into Tomoko's mouth, pushed her face into the carpet, and strangled her until she could no longer breathe. Shortly thereafter Joe threw her out of their apartment and Tomoko fled to a battered women's shelter. Joe eventually found out where Tomoko was through a mutual friend and picked her up from the shelter. He stated, "I will never kick you out of the house, so let's go back to our apartment" and apologized to her.

In April 1990, Tomoko came home to find Joe with another woman in their house. He got so angry he pushed Tomoko off the second floor staircase down a flight of stairs and then dragged her around the apartment by her hair. He also picked her up and threw her down on the floor. He forced her into the car, hit her in the face and left arm with his fist many times, and yelled, "I will kill you" and "I will push you off the LA Bridge". He repeatedly made threats in the car that he would kill her. He stopped suddenly on the freeway, kicked Tomoko out of the car, left her on the road and drove off.

Tomoko called the police and showed them the bruises on her body, but Joe was not arrested.

In June 1990 Joe ripped the clothes Tomoko was wearing and those in the closet. He pulled Tomoko around by her ankles on the staircase, and held her upside down over the staircase while bouncing her head on the floor. She screamed and begged him to stop, but he would not.

In July 1990 when Joe and Tomoko were low on money Joe finally offered to file for Tomoko's immigration forms so that she could get employment authorization. However, he did not file the papers. In August 1990 Joe's brother Jack moved into Joe and Tomoko's apartment. In September Jack, who had been jailed for assaulting Joe's uncle, hit Tomoko in the face, cutting her mouth which bled profusely. Tomoko escaped the house and pressed charges against Jack with the police who told Tomoko not to call the police again, but to leave her husband. Joe's family started calling her and harassing her for having put both of their sons in jail. In September 1990 Joe was hit with a truck while riding a bicycle and could not continue to work. They were evicted from their apartment in Los Angeles and they returned to San Francisco.

Following the accident Joe filed Tomoko's application for permanent residency with the INS in February 1991 so that she would be able to work and support him. He continued to fight with Tomoko on a daily basis, to abuse her and to threaten her with deportation. He would often keep her up all night arguing. In April of 1991, in one fight he hit her several times, choked her, and beat her severely bruising her arms, behind her ears, on her face and head, causing great pain. After beating her, he wrapped her right hand and tied it to her body using cloth tape. He then taped his right hand to her left hand, and went to sleep. He did this so that she could not go out and call the police while he slept. The next morning when he saw her bruises he cried and apologized. Surgery was required to repair Tomoko's injuries from this incident. In May 1991, Joe pushed Tomoko down on the floor and threw her out of the apartment holding her by the ankles so that she landed outside.

The physical and mental abuse continued and became worse, especially after Joe lost his job. During the last incident in June 1991, Joe hit Tomoko repeatedly and choked her. Tomoko finally fled for fear of her life and found shelter.

Tomoko was referred in late April, 1991 to the Asian Law Caucus from a battered women's shelter. The problem: Tomoko had just fled from her husband Joe after the last beating, her application for adjustment of status was pending, her INS interview was scheduled for August, 1991, and her husband was threatening to have her deported. She had little money, left her belongings in their apartment, had no family members to assist her, and spoke limited English. Her husband held all the cards -- mere withdrawal of the visa petition before the INS interview and approval of her adjustment would render Tomoko immediately deportable. Tomoko had

no substantial leverage against her abusive husband. While returning to Japan appears on the surface to have been an option, it was not a viable option for Tomoko. She was already ostracized by her family for having married a U.S. Navy man who was neither Japanese nor white, and had lost her job in Japan after she failed to return. These social, cultural, and financial barriers placed severe restrictions on Tomoko.

Throughout their troubled 2 year marriage, her husband constantly and repeatedly beat, slapped, punched and raped her. Joe had been arrested several times by local police, had been criminally charged and had served time in jail. As a result of the beatings, Tomoko has to visit the hospital on several occasions. The severity and frequency of the beatings had also broken Tomoko's spirit, making it difficult for her to fight to obtain legal status.

The first hurdle was to convince Tomoko that she has a chance to obtain legal residency providing we acted quickly to inform the INS of her predicament. She would have to be the key player and the principal source of information. Obviously providing the details of the relationship and the abuse was painful and difficult for Tomoko, but was nevertheless necessary to establish her credibility and to alert the INS of the fragility of the situation and the tremendous power that Joe held over her. Tomoko spent numerous hours receiving counseling to help her build self-confidence and build the strength she would need to describe the demeaning pattern of abuse that she had suffered. With counseling she struggled to break the cycle of violence in her life. Only by obtaining legal residency could she feel ultimately safe in leaving her husband.

After obtaining supporting documentation including police, medical, and court records documenting the battering, and preparing a detailed affidavit for Tomoko outlining the history of abuse, counsel filed a letter (with copies of the above records) with the INS in early June 1991, far in advance of her adjustment interview, informing then INS that it could and should approve this cases even though the couple was separated due to spousal abuse, and even without the spousal interview at INS. [See *Dabaghian v. Civiletti*, 607 F.2d 868 (9th Cir. 1979) (where alien's marriage to United States citizen was not a sham or fraudulent from its inception, it was valid for the purpose of determining eligibility for adjustment of status under the Immigration and Nationality Act until it was legally dissolved.)]

Secondly, counsel attempted to have Tomoko's case promptly adjudicated by the INS without requiring the August interview because she feared that: 1) if Joe appeared at the interview, he could harm her; and 2) any delay would give Joe more time to withdraw the petition and render Tomoko deportable. Delaying the case would only work to the benefit of the husband and give him more power. The INS did not accelerate the process.

Joe did not appear at Tomoko's INS interview. The INS officer acknowledged the problems in the case and agreed to decide the

matter. On the afternoon of the interview, Joe went to the office of Tomoko's counsel and threatened to withdraw the petition unless Tomoko communicated with him. He demanded that she return to him or else he would withdraw the petition. Such an ultimatum could not be legally challenged under immigration laws since the regulations require the automatic revocation of a petition upon the petitioning spouse's request. Counsel made it clear to the husband, however that the INS had already received copies of the police, medical and court orders documenting his criminal behavior, and that any threats to the client would diminish any chances of her ever returning to him. In reality he had all the control.

Out of fear, Tomoko contacted him and ultimately succumbed to his demands that she return to him or he would withdraw her petition have her deported. Joe waived in Tomoko's face an INS form to withdraw her visa petition. Joe had apparently followed her to find out where she was living and working. He forced his way into her apartment and stayed with her for a few days. For at least two weeks while she resumed seeing him, she was afraid and her life was in danger, but she felt she had no choice. It was either suffer another beating or be deported. Counsel repeatedly urged the INS not to delay adjudication of the petition due to the danger involved. Four weeks after the interview, the INS approved the adjustment application (thereby preventing the withdrawal of the petition). Fortunately, no further incidents of violence occurred during that two week period. After the adjustment application was approved, Tomoko was finally able to permanently flee her husband's violence.

This case came from Ayuda in Washington, D.C.

CECILIA

Cecilia* is a 48 year-old woman, originally from the Dominican Republic who married her husband, Jorge*, a U.S. citizen from Puerto Rico. Cecilia and Jorge lived together for a total of twelve years, during which Jorge continually promised Cecilia that he would petition for her so that she could become a permanent resident. Although their relationship was riddled with domestic violence Cecilia remained in the relationship. Over the span of the twelve years, Cecilia and Jorge had three daughters ages 6, 8 and 10 and married in 1984.

Jorge was an alcoholic. While drunk on beer and rum he often became enraged and would try to choke Cecilia, threatening to cut her face, to kill her and to throw her out the window. Their three daughters often witnessed this violence. If they became upset and began to cry, Jorge would grab them and physically throw them out of the room. Examples of Jorge's continuing violence included attacks on both Cecilia and the children.

In 1987, Jorge came home drunk and made Cecilia get out of bed. Jorge punched Cecilia in the mouth and above her left eye. Cecilia had to leave the house and go to a shelter that night. Upon arrival at the shelter, Cecilia was taken to the hospital and treated for her injuries. Cecilia would have to escape to a shelter several more times before the end of their relationship.

The children were also abused by Jorge. At one point, he punched Sondra (their six-year-old daughter) in the nose causing it to bleed. When Sondra went to school with a portion of the skin around her nose torn, the school reported the incident to the police.

During the first six years of their marriage, Jorge continually promised to file immigration papers for Cecilia but never did. After numerous incidents of abuse, Jorge would threaten Cecilia that if she reported the abuse or took any action against him, he would have her deported. Cecilia remained in the family home caring for the children.

In 1990, Cecilia's father became deathly ill in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Because of her undocumented status she had not seen her father for over 12 years. Jorge agreed to allow Cecilia to travel to the Dominican Republic to see her father before he died. Jorge went with Cecilia to the Dominican Republic, but returned to the United States within nine days. Cecilia remained to care for her father who was in and out of the hospital and eventually died while she was there. When Cecilia attempted to return to the U.S. she was denied reentry since Jorge had never petitioned for Cecilia's permanent residency as he had promised.

Jorge, who was having problems caring for three girls by himself, finally decided to file for Cecilia's permanent residency. His delay and the time it took INS to process her papers kept Cecilia out of the country for over eight months. During that time Jorge determined that the best way to care for the children and to ensure that Cecilia would remain with him upon her return was to have his mother move into their home and become the children's primary caretaker. Jorge and his mother began to establish contacts with the children's school and the community so that they could, if Cecilia attempted to leave, obtain custody of the children claiming that she had "abandoned" them for over eight months.

When Cecilia returned in May 1991, the Jorge's abuse did not end, in fact it became worse. Jorge was even more jealous and abusive than before. At times Jorge would hold Cecilia hostage, confined to the house. He would put pieces of string in the cracks of the door to see if anyone had come in or if Cecilia had tried to leave.

In May 1991, Jorge assaulted Cecilia on the street in front of a restaurant when she was returning from a baptismal conference for the children at church. Jorge had been drinking. He grabbed her by the throat, choked her and threatened to break every bone in Cecilia's body. In early July 1991, he slapped her severely, twisted one arm behind her back and choked her with his other hand. Later in July, he became angry because dinner was not ready on time. He flew into a rage, grabbed a pot of boiling hot beans off the stove and threw it at Cecilia and the children. He grabbed Cecilia by the neck choking her. He pulled her by the hair with one hand while twisting the other hand behind her back to keep her from moving. The children became very upset and begged their father to stop hurting their mother. When the children tried to stop the assault, Jorge dragged Cecilia from the kitchen into the bedroom and continued to attack her on the bed. The entire incident happened in front of Jorge's mother, two of Jorge's friend's and his brother-in-law. No one made any efforts to intervene or stop the assault.

Following this assault and the escalation of the abuse Cecilia sought a civil protection order. After being unable to return to the United States, she had been back in the country for only two months. Cecilia had no place to live and had been unsuccessful in obtaining shelter. Jorge's family came to court and lied about the abuse. A civil protection order was issued to protect Cecilia from the abuse, but because Jorge and his mother had been caring for the children during eight month Cecilia's absence and the children were too afraid of their father to tell the court that they wanted to live with their mother. The court awarded sole custody of the children to Jorge weighing her absence heavily against her. To this day, Cecilia struggles to make enough money to afford an apartment where she and her children can live.

This case came from the YWCA Women's Shelter in Santa Rosa, California

CECILIA

Cecilia*, who came to the United States from a South American country, has been married to Jose*, who has Lawful Permanent Resident status, for 18 years. Together they have 8 children ranging in age from 1 to 18. Jose, at one time, began the process to get resident status for Cecilia however, he later withdrew the petition and did not file another.

Throughout their relationship, and on a regular basis, Jose has been physically violent to Cecilia. When she was pregnant he would frequently hit her in the abdomen. Mostly his abuse took the form of hitting her with his fists and leaving numerous bruises all over her body, grabbing and shaking her, throwing her against the wall, and trying to physically restrain her from leaving their home. Jose controlled all of the money in the household. He constantly verbally harassed Cecilia by calling her names such as "whore" in front of her children. Also, on one occasion, he attempted to sodomize her while one of her children was present and watching. Frequently he would threaten to kill her if she ever left him.

Jose's abuse was not directed solely at Cecilia. he was also physically abusive to the children. There is strong evidence that he has sexually molested at least 2 of their children, one boy and one girl. Child Protective Services became involved, and they told Cecilia that she could leave Jose even though she was undocumented.

Cecilia has left Jose, with their children, as she fears for all of their safety. She is unsure of what will happen to her because of her legal status, but she is attempting to get a divorce and custody of all of her children. She is very afraid of her husband even though he has no idea where she is living. Cecilia is trying to find a new place to live but she speaks mostly Spanish and is having a difficult time finding housing and a means of supporting herself.

This case came from Ayuda, Inc., in Washington DC:

SUJATA

Sujata* first came from India to the United States when she was 15 years old. Her father was a naturalized U.S. citizen who filed for his daughter's residency. Sujata obtained permanent residency and graduated high school in the suburbs of Washington, DC.

When she was 19, Sujata's family arranged for her to marry Raj*, a professional from India. She filed a petition for him and he was granted legal permanent residency.

The couple had two children. A son was born during a visit to India early in the marriage. A few years later a daughter was born in the United States.

Shortly after the daughter was born, the family made another trip to India. This time, however, Raj returned to the United States and left Sujata and the children behind with his family. He promised that he would send for her shortly. Time passed and Raj continued to tell Sujata to remain in India with the children. Three years passed, and though Sujata begged Raj to let her come back to the United States, Raj ordered her to wait in India until he was "better established". Without financial assistance for Raj and his permission, Sujata could not return to the United States.

After one year in India, Sujata become technically ineligible to re-enter the United States as a legal permanent resident. Two years later her father visited India and took Sujata to the US consulate so that she could apply for a visa as a returning resident alien. The consul approved the application and gave her an appointment for processing. Raj found out about the interview and ordered Sujata not to attend. Sujata obeyed her husband and did not go to the interview. Her eligibility to obtain a visa as a returning resident expired. Her legal permanent residency was officially terminated. He father died not long after that visit.

Two more years passed, and Raj filed I-130 petitions for Sujata and their Indian-born son. However, when the interview date for the appointment arrived, Raj again order Sujata not to apply for her visa and refused to send her the necessary papers. The approval of the petition was canceled when she failed to request an interview for one year.

More time went by and Raj decided that Sujata and the children should return to the United States. He again filed an I-130 petition on her behalf. Before her consular interview date arrived, Raj told Sujata that he was ill with a heart condition and that she and the children should come to see him immediately. Sujata went to the US consulate, and based on the information that her husband was ill, received a visitors visa. She re-entered the U.S. after an absence of almost 10 years.

When she arrived, Sujata discovered that Raj was not ill. He was operating a home for handicapped individuals, and wanted her to help with the cleaning, cooking, and personal care of the residents. He also had a live-in girlfriend, who did not help with the manual chores.

Raj was physically abusive and very controlling. He kept reminding Sujata that any possibility of her regaining her residence depended on him. If she did not obey him, he threatened to have her deported. He showed her papers he had received from the INS but would not let her keep them. When Sujata's visitor's visa expired, he threatened to call the police to have her deported. Overtime the violence escalated and he threatened to kill her on several occasions.

Raj wanted the children to grow up to be Indian, not American. One day he told Sujata he was taking the children to a popular amusement park. Instead, he drove the children to New York and saw that they boarded a plane to India.

After one particularly violent incident, Sujata left her husband's home and went to a women's shelter. Her counselors were very concerned that she was totally economically dependent on her husband, and could not find work on her own because she lacked work authorization. The counselor took her to the INS district office to see if she could explain the situation and get Sujata an employment authorization document. The female investigations officer they spoke to seemed very sympathetic. She took Sujata's passport and said she would see what she could do. Two months later, Sujata received notice that she should report for a deportation hearing.

Sujata obtained representation for her deportation hearing. The lawyer contacted the US consulate in India and learned that Raj had recently withdrawn the I-130 petition. Sujata continues to work for Raj, though does not live with him. He controls every aspect of her life. He pays her rent, buys her food, and gives her \$10/week for her personal expenses. He continues to say he will re-file the relative petition, although he has made no efforts to do so.

This case came from the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, California.

LAURA

Laura* is a 36-year-old native of Bangladesh, who married Aaron*, a lawful permanent resident and a Bangladesh citizen, in July 1978. Laura entered the United States in September 1978 visa as a wife of a visiting scholar. Laura and Aaron had two children ages 9 and 2 who were born in the United States.

Both Laura and Aaron qualified to be granted amnesty. In August 1990 Aaron was granted amnesty and his status was ultimately adjusted to that of a permanent resident. Laura never applied for amnesty. She was erroneously advised that she did not need to apply for amnesty on her own since she would later be able to receive permanent residency through her husband. After Aaron obtained permanent residency he could apply for Laura to obtain her status through him.

Aaron has been physically abusing Laura since they were married in 1978. These incidents were so severe that Laura had to be hospitalized on three occasions. The first incident that led to Laura's hospitalization occurred in 1982. Laura had to have 14 stitches in her head. In a 1985 incident the police were called to the home after Laura had been beaten by Aaron. Laura had to be sent to the hospital with two of her teeth missing. In 1990, she was admitted to the hospital after her husband kicked her in the face while wearing street shoes and then bit her body in several places.

In August 1990, after receiving his permanent residency through the amnesty program, Aaron filed a relative petition on behalf of Laura. Two years later when Laura was to finally receive her immigrant visa in Bangladesh in August of 1992, she did not travel to her visa interview because Aaron had filed for legal separation from Laura in April, 1992 and she understood that she was therefore ineligible to immigrate.

In September 1992, Aaron wanted to reconcile with Laura and make her return to him. He wrote a letter to the U.S. Consulate in Bangladesh requesting that her interview be rescheduled. The interview was rescheduled for December 1992. Again she did not travel to the interview because Aaron was unwilling to sign her affidavit of support and she believed that she would therefore not be issued an immigrant visa. Laura continues to live with Aaron despite continued abuse.

This case is from Hostos Center for Women and Immigrant's rights in the Bronx in New York.

ANNA

Anna* is 26 years old and is originally from the West Indies. She was a college student when she met and married her husband Andre* who is a U.S. citizen originally from Puerto Rico. When they got married Andre said that he was going to file the papers for her to get citizenship and he claims that he did so. The couple have been married for over 4 years and Anna has never heard anything about her immigration status so she feels that he lied about filing papers for her. Also, Andre frequently threatened that he would call INS and alert them that she was undocumented so that they would deport her.

Throughout her marriage Anna has suffered a tremendous amount of physical abuse. Andre was frequently very violent towards her. She has lost some of the hearing in one ear as a result of him hitting her so hard. He was also sexually abusive towards Anna. His pattern of abuse was to beat her until she was semi-conscious and then sodomize her.

Anna has been kept in isolation, by her husband, for the last year. The agency that was trying to help her reported that about a year ago Andre made her stop attending classes. He also began accompanying her to her appointments so the caseworkers had to lie and say that they were counseling her about her schooling. That is when he made her stop attending classes. He also did not allow her to work or have any friends. He did however allow her to speak to her mother unfortunately, her mother advised her that she was lucky that she did not have to work and that the abuse was simply something that women have to put up with. She strongly advised her daughter not to leave her husband.

Anna is still living with Andre and she is constantly afraid of what may happen to her.

This case came from the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, California.

HIROMI

Hiromi* is a 45-year-old Swedish citizen of Japanese descent. She had obtained a degree from Berkeley in 1991 and returned to visit friends in San Francisco in November 1991. In February 1992, Hiromi met Ken* in San Francisco. They fell in love and got married in March 1992. The first several months of their marriage were happy and Hiromi met many of Ken's friends and family members. In May 1992, Ken filed a relative petition for Hiromi to obtain her permanent residency through the marriage.

Around the fall of 1992, Ken became physically, sexually and emotionally abusive towards Hiromi. He raped her and repeatedly forced her to participate in sexual acts that she found extremely painful and repulsive. In conjunction with these assaults Ken repeatedly threatened to divorce her and have her deported.

At times Ken would begin to treat Hiromi more gently, but then the abuse would reoccur and would become increasingly more severe. Hiromi grew to fear her citizen spouse and started attending a counseling group for battered women.

In December 1992, Ken and Hiromi went for a joint interview at the Immigration and Naturalization Service in order for Hiromi to adjust her status to a conditional permanent resident. Shortly after the interview Ken informed Hiromi that he had told the immigration officer during their separate questioning that she had married him for immigration purposes.

After the interview, Ken used Hiromi's fear of deportation to continue to force Hiromi to have sexual relations with him. Although Hiromi still wished to find a way to patch up their relationship, she lived in constant fear of her U.S. citizen spouse. In January of 1993 Hiromi finally fled to a battered women's shelter. If Ken withdraws the visa petition before Hiromi's adjustment of status is approved, she can be deported.

This case came from AYUDA in Washington, D.C.

MELBIS

Melbis* married her husband, Tonio*, some time after coming to the U.S. from Columbia. Tonio, as a permanent resident, petitioned for Melbis to obtain permanent residency. Almost immediately after the petition was filed, Tonio began to physically abuse Melbis. Whenever Melbis would try to call the police, try to leave, or even just say that she didn't want this violence, Tonio would threaten to withdraw his petition, and to call INS to report her. During almost every incident where Tonio physically abused Melbis he used the residency petition to ensure that she would not report the abuse.

As an undocumented woman Melbis at first feared exposure and deportation more than increasingly serious physical assaults from her husband. Even when a police officer intervened after an assault on the street, and himself threatened to report Melbis to INS to force her to disclose-in front of Tonio-that he had assaulted her, Melbis kept quiet,. Both the police and Tonio could have reported her to INS (even though in the district police are theoretically not permitted to contact them). But only Tonio had the power to get her legal residency and so she had to defend him even when he was threatening her life.

The attacks became increasingly brutal. Tonio tried to strangle Melbis on more than one occasion, cut her with a broken bottle, and severely beat her. Melbis was finally hospitalized for treatment after one particularly vicious attack.

Melbis tried to leave Tonio but he continued to follow and harass her. On one occasion he went to her work, forced her into his car and drove off with her. After this incident she sought help from AYUDA and decided to risk getting a civil protection order. Immediately upon receiving notice of court proceedings Tonio went to his attorney's office and demanded withdrawal of the residency petition for Melbis.

Although his attorney refused, feeling that the request was being made in bad faith, Tonio went himself to INS to withdraw the petition. He eventually consented, in a civil protection order, that he would not contact INS about Melbis but during the extensive negotiations he repeatedly threatened Melbis that he would call INS. Tonio clearly understood the significance of this threat and he tried to exploit his power at every opportunity.

This case came from the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, California.

MAY

May* is a 53-year-old citizen of Hong Kong. In October 1991, she came to the United States to visit friends on a tourist visa. In November 1991, she met Peter*, a 62 year-old United States citizen. Peter suggested that May move immediately into his home and assist him at this seafood restaurant, so they could spend some time getting to know each other better. They soon fell in love and were married in February 1992.

That month May left for Hong Kong as Peter requested that she return to the People's Republic of China to obtain a copy of her birth certificate so that he could file a relative petition on her behalf. When May returned to the United States in April 1992, she found that her citizen spouse had dismissed all the employees from the restaurant, and expected her to single-handedly run the restaurant that seated more than 80 customers. Peter forced her to work 10 hours a day, 7 days a week. Peter never paid May any wages for her work.

After work each day she was expected to return home and take care of Peter's needs. At home each day Peter made May undress him and then demanded that they have sexual relations. On a couple of occasions when May was too tired to have sex, Peter got mad and ripped off all of her clothes and threw them back at her before raping her.

When May fell ill, Peter refused to let her see a doctor. In July of 1992, the couple had a fight in which Peter told May that he thought of her as a slave and that since the relative petition had yet to be approved, he could do whatever he wished to her. He threatened that he could even determine whether or not she lived. The next day, May asked Peter to drive her to San Francisco. He agreed but when he dropped her off, he made her return their house keys and later refused to pick her up. Later in July 1992, Peter claimed to have withdrawn the relative visa petition, and in August 1992, he filed for divorce. May is presently living at a battered women's shelter.

This case comes from The Texas Council on Domestic Violence. The woman is from a small town about 10 miles from the Mexican border.

THERESA

Theresa* is originally from Mexico. She married Ramone* a U.S. citizen when she was very young and came to the United States to live with him. He never began the process of applying for her residency.

Ramone was very violent with Theresa. She found out, after coming to the United States, that he had been living with another woman and they had children together. She was pregnant at the time. She left the relationship on 3 separate occasions. Each time she left Ramone would force her to come back by threatening to kill her family. He frequently told her that he had once killed someone. Even though many people knew who had done it, they could not pin it on him. He also constantly threatened to call INS and have her deported and that he would keep the children. Ramone kept her very isolated.

Theresa and Ramone were married for 12 years and they had 3 children together. The abuse became so bad in their relationship that Theresa, not knowing of any other way out, eventually killed Ramone. When the police arrested her they reported that they were unable to put handcuffs on her because her body was so bruised and her hands and wrists were so swollen. The officers also commented that they were unsure of how she was able to see well enough to be able to aim the gun-her eyes were swollen so badly. Another officer described her coloring as being "grape-like".

Theresa now feels certain that if she had not acted she would be dead. Ramone's ex-wife testified on her behalf and she was able to plea-bargain for 10 years probation. Theresa is afraid that Ramone's son, from his former wife, will someday kill her.

This case came from The Immigrants' Rights office in Los Angeles, CA

HELENA

Helena* is 39 years old. She is originally from Romania where she met her husband Gustavo* while she was a student at the University. Gustavo is originally from Ecuador. Early in their relationship Gustavo became violent with Helena. He would frequently beat her and, on one occasion, he threatened to kill her with a knife. While still in Romania Helena tried to leave Gustavo and return to her mother's home. Every time that she attempted to do this he would follow her and vandalize her mother's home until she returned to him. After this happened a few times Helena's mother asked her not to return.

The couple lived together for 3 years before getting married after Helena became pregnant. After their baby was born Gustavo forced Helena to drop out of school and stay at home. When Gustavo graduated from college the couple moved to Ecuador and lived with Gustavo's parents. On several occasions Gustavo beat Helena in front of his parents. His father attempted to stop this abuse but Gustavo continued the regular beatings and the constant mental abuse. After Helena gave birth to their second child Gustavo migrated to Los Angeles, California where he obtained his Lawful Permanent Resident status.

Eventually Helena joined Gustavo here in the United States. In the U.S. the violence escalated. When she gave birth to their third child she recalls being beaten on a daily basis. In her own words she recalls " Sometimes when he got hungry after work, he would come over and start punching me. He used to leave my arms all bruised up. My chest was also black and blue...I used to have to get up at 5:30 a.m. to make him coffee. If I didn't get up, he would come over and throw cold water on me. Many times I would have to sleep on the living room floor because he would throw me out of bed. Then in the morning he would throw cold water and tell me to get up. He used to kick me like a dog..I felt like an animal. Many times I asked him why he beat me and he would tell me because I'm stupid....After so many years of being told that I was stupid, an idiot, an animal, an imbecile, I began to believe I was. Once he broke some of my teeth. Another time he threw an ashtray at me which cut my eyebrow...Another time he threw a pair of scissors at me which also cut me. He didn't care. I used to tell my oldest child that when he saw the violence begin to go and call the police but Gustavo would pull out the phone.

He even hit me in public. We would go to the store and he would just feel like kicking me, and he would. People would stop and look at us, and he would just ask them what they were looking at. He was scary."

Helena left her husband for the first time after 9 years of marriage and abuse. She decided to leave him because, along with

the daily beatings, one night he held a knife between her eyes and threatened to kill her. She remembers thinking that "I may escape death this time, but next time I may not escape." She escaped to a battered women's shelter where she filed for a restraining order. Gustavo hired a private investigator to find her and she returned home. She left again, in less than a month, because he threatened to kill her with an ax. He had threatened to kill her while she was sleeping. When she left this time she refused to return to him. She filed for divorce and when it was finalized Gustavo returned to Ecuador so that he would not have to pay child support.

Gustavo had promised to file the papers for Helena and the children to get their residency in the United States however this never materialized. When the divorce was finalized Helena found herself having to support herself and her children on her own. She very much wants to return to school and learn English and computer skills so that she could get a good job to support her family. She feels that she could not do this because she is undocumented and could not receive any financial aid. She has been able to get a job but the money is very unstable. It has been very difficult for her to raise her children alone. She feels that if she were documented that life would be at least a little easier for her because she could finish her education and then find a better job.

This case came from the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, California.

MEETA

Meeta*, 34 years old, is a native of India who married Raj* in India in 1984. At the time of the parties' marriage, Raj was a lawful permanent resident of the United States and a citizen of India. Meeta obtained work with the Indian government in the United States. She entered the United States in March 1988 on a visa that allowed her to work for the Indian government and rejoined her husband.

Since Meeta arrived in the United States her marriage has been severely marred by domestic violence. In July 1988 Raj became a U.S. citizen, but has refused to file a relative petition for Meeta to obtain lawful permanent residence through the marriage.

In May 1992, Meeta gave birth to twins in the United States. Raj, the father of the children, has refused to assist in caring for the children. In addition to suffering continual spouse abuse, Meeta must now simultaneously work full time, while caring fully for her children. She is authorized to remain in the United States only so long as she continues working for the Indian government. If she quits her job, she becomes deportable. Given these constraints Meeta feels that she must continue to endure her husband's abuse so that she can remain in the United States with her children. She continues to hope that he will eventually petition for her to become a permanent resident.

The following case came from The Texas Council on Family Violence Council. The woman is from a small rural town in Texas.

CHRISTINA

Christina*, originally from the Philippines, came to the United States as a mail order bride. She corresponded with Jerry* for about 3 months and then arrangements were made for her to come and meet him. Christina has one child, that she left in the Philippines and Jerry had promised to help her bring that child to the United States however, he never did. He also said that he would help her get her residency but never did that either. When Christina got to the U.S. Jerry met her at the airport. They then went to Las Vegas where they checked into a hotel. Later that day they went to another building and Christina was told to sign a piece of paper. Jerry and another man then said some other things to her that she did not understand and then told her that she was now married to Jerry. Upon returning to the secluded home that they would share Jerry gave her a piece of paper entitled "Standard Regulations" and proceeded to explain to her the rules that she would have to live by (These standard regulations appear following Christina's story). Jerry had children from a previous marriage and she was to also care for the children.

Throughout the course of their marriage the couple lived in a secluded home in a rural area. Christina learned that she must obey the standard regulations and she learned what the consequences would be if she failed to obey them. If she failed to obey his demands she would be hit by Jerry until she could perform her "duties". Eventually, Christina reported, all that it would take was a look from him to make her do something. She also reported that at times no matter what she did he would hit her. Christina said that after she learned how to follow the rules she no longer had to be "disciplined". At some point in their relationship he allowed her to seek employment outside of the home. Every day he would drop her off and give her \$2.00. He would tell her where to be at precisely 5:30 so that he could pick her up. Every bit of her time away from him had to be accounted for. Jerry would not let her make, or accept, a phone call without his permission and him being present. The only letters that she could write were to her family and they had to be in English so that he could read them before they were sent out.

One day while looking for a job she happened to enter a shop that was run by a Filipino woman. They talked for a while and Christina felt secure enough to tell her about the rules that she had to live by. Luckily the woman that she met was a volunteer in a battered women's shelter and she told Christina that she did not have to live like this and that there was somewhere that she could go. When she went to the shelter and Jerry found out that she was not returning, he alerted the INS. After contact with the INS Christina voluntarily left to return to the Philippines. Before she left she did find a Pro Bono attorney to help her obtain a divorce from Jerry.

The following are the "standard regulations" that Christina received:

STANDARD REGULATIONS

Your primary function in life is to serve me...bringing me comfort and pleasure at all times. You are to keep the household neat, clean, orderly. You are to keep yourself clean, healthy, and attractive. You are to function in these capacities with a joyful, pleasant nature at all times. You will follow my directives at all times without question and without complaint.

Your secondary function is to be a model mother. You will give order, affection, good care to the children at all times...but never to the extent that it will conflict with proper attention to me. You will never voice or show contempt for my "orders" as far as the children or anyone else is concerned. You will at all times be supportive and convey to the children and to others that my word is "law", and that the children should follow my directives without question and with the same "joy" as you do.

DAILY

You will arise approximately at 6:00 A.M. After going to the bathroom, brushing your teeth, combing your hair, cleaning your face with alcohol or Seabreeze, you will wake the children. While they are preparing for school you will prepare their breakfast. They will not leave the house without a proper breakfast. You will then prepare their lunch for them to carry with them. You will put on my coffee and awaken me at 7:00 A.M. The children will catch the bus at 7:20 A.M. It is your responsibility to see that they have done all that they are supposed to do each morning and that they are properly attired and have all necessities with them as they leave the house.

Each day there will be absolute order in the house by the time that I arrive.. There will be no dishes in the sink, nothing out of place. You will organize everything in the house and keep it organized. A place for everything and everything in it's place. The tub, toilet, bathroom sink will be scrubbed daily. The dishes will be washed and put away before I arrive. You must be fastidious about scrubbing the dishes, pots and pans before they are put into the dishwasher.

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

Vacuum the carpet (and any other time that it is needed), dust all furniture (not just the tops, but the sides and bottoms as well), this also includes dusting the tops of books, washing washable surfaces such as refrigerator, washer, dryer, tables. You will vacuum behind and in between the furniture, keep window sill and window free from dirt, keep baseboards clean, keep finger prints and smudges from doors, woodwork walls, cabinets: All cabinets and drawers are to be cleaned and washed on Monday, the stove will be dismantled and cleaned on Wednesday. The porches will be cleaned and scrubbed.

TUESDAY, THURSDAY

These are gardening and taking care of my personal things days. My clothes are to be cleaned and pressed. My shoes are to be cleaned and shined. If the car is at home, it is to be vacuumed, the dashboard cleaned, the windows and windshield cleaned. If not available during the week, this is to be done on Saturday. Any mending that needs to be done such as buttons or tears will be done. On Tuesday change the pillow cases on my bed. Make sure that my robes are washed at least once a week.

SATURDAY

Change the sheets on my bed. Work in the garden with me, if required. Make the bread for the week. (If we are busy on Saturday or out of the city, this is to be done another day). If we are in the city...you and the children will attend church either on Saturday evening or on Sunday morning.

OVERALL

You will clean your face no less than 3 times a day. You will take your vitamins daily and see to it that the children take theirs after breakfast. You will brush your teeth at least twice daily and see to it that the children do likewise. Your hair will be clean and attractive, your body clean and sweet smelling and your clothes neat and clean each day when I get home.

You will prepare a menu each week...have it ready by each Friday evening...for my approval together with a shopping list of all ingredients necessary that you do not have on hand. You are to know at all times what foods are in your larder and where they are. Your shopping list will also include soaps, shampoos, and any cleaning supplies that you will need for the following week. You will study nutrition and follow the guidelines to produce meals that are nutritionally sound as well as good tasting. You will learn to preserve food by canning.

I would prefer that when I am at home that you do not wear slacks...that you do wear skirts, or house coats, or housedresses and NO underwear except during your period. You will at all times be affectionate with me both publicly and privately. You will immediately reply VERBALLY when I speak to you. You will keep a fresh pitcher of tea in the refrigerator for me. At times, I will request that you massage me, brush my hair, scrub my back, or give attention to my person. You will do so joyfully and immediately. You will come to bed each evening exquisitely clean, sweet smelling and sweet tasting in case I wish to have you. You will scratch me as usual.

If I secure you a money making position that requires your time outside the house, you will do all of the things above in addition to your working duties. Any funds that you make at an outside position will come to me for payment of previous expenses and ongoing expenses required to support the family. You will NEVER make phone calls without my permission or without me being present. You will write letters to your family only...always in English. You will converse in English in the house. You will accept no phone

calls.

When we make love, I expect that you do so at any and all times and with enthusiasm. I also require that you kiss and stroke my entire body both before and during lovemaking. You must remember that the genitals are only one part of the body and that it is the entire body that responds and finds pleasure in making love. You will do everything that is within your power and intelligence to make the experience a pleasure for me each and every time. If you do so, then you will probably have pleasure as well. You will not only be willing, but you will practice the art of seduction in order to increase my interest and pleasure. It is your responsibility to see to it that my sleep is as restful as possible.

You will review the things that the children are to do each day and see to it that it is done. The way to keep me in good humor is for the household to function smoothly and for everyone to do exactly as is expected of them without griping and grumbling.

This case comes from Hostos Center for Women and Immigrants Rights in Bronx, New York.

ANTONIA

Antonia* is in her late 40's and is originally from the Dominican Republic. While she was in the United States she met and married Howard*, also originally from the Dominican Republic, who had established Lawful Permanent Resident status for himself in the U.S.

The couple have been married for 7 years and the physical violence towards Antonia began immediately after they were married. He was extremely physically and emotionally abusive of Antonia. On 4 separate occasions she was hospitalized due to his violent attacks. She has many scars on her head from being hit, she has back problems from being shoved and beaten, and she has a permanent problem with one of her arms that causes her frequent pain. Howard has also pulled her hair so hard, on several occasions, that he has pulled clumps of her hair out of her head. Howard did not stop at this type of physical violence but after a battering incident he would then sexually abuse her by forcing her to have sex with him. Antonia left her husband after one particular incident when he severally battered her and then threw her out into the snow. Luckily one of her neighbors found her and took her in. She pressed charges against him for this incident. However, the sentence that he received allowed him to be out of jail during the week. When he was out he constantly followed her and would leave notes at friends homes saying that he knew that they knew where she was and he was going to find her. When she reported this his sentence was changed so that he was no longer out during the week, but then he got out of jail sooner. As soon as he was out he tracked her down in another city and tried to attack her. She was able to get away but now she must constantly move around because he will not leave her alone.

When the couple were married he said that he would file papers for her to get her citizenship. He took all of the papers that Antonia had, i.e her passport etc., and said that he filed a petition for her. He had filed that petition with a travel agency that also handled immigration matters. When she finally left her husband she contacted that same travel agency and asked to receive copies of any papers that they had filed for her and she asked for her own documents to be returned to her. After she pressed charges against her husband they contacted her and told her that if she dropped the charges she would get her documents back, but if she did not drop the charges she would never see her documents again. After this that caseworker could not be reached. Soon after that the agency disappeared. Howard constantly threatens to report her to INS and have her deported.

While living in the United States Antonia has found some work, illegally, in a factory. Although she would like to have a steady job, due to her lack of immigration status she has been unable to secure one.

This case came from A Women's Place in Merced, California

CARMELLA

Carmella* is a 29 year old Hispanic originally from Mexico. She came to the United States where she met and married a 25 year old Hispanic male (George*) who had established Lawful Permanent Residency status for himself.

The couple have 5 children, 2 boys and 3 girls, ranging in ages from 12-6.

Carmella's husband said that he would file papers for her to get her permanent residency status but failed to ever follow through on his promises. George would often threaten Carmella telling her that if she ever called the police because, of his violence, he would have her deported. He has threatened to kill her and her family on numerous occasions. He has also made numerous threats to take their children from her.

Carmella's husband has been physically abusive to her throughout their marriage. Frequently George would slap, punch, shove, spit on, and attempt to choke Carmella. On more than one occasion he tried to smother her with a pillow. On other occasions he would repeatedly bang her head against the wall, and on at least one occasion he tied her up so that she could not move. As a result of these attacks Carmella has suffered many bruises, cuts, abrasions, bites, and black eyes. George was extremely violent to her during all of her pregnancies.

In addition to the frequent physical abuse, Carmella also suffered many sexual assaults by George. On numerous occasions he would physically force her to have sex with him, while on other occasions he would threaten her with further violence if she would not have sex with him. He would also try to have sex with her when she was sleeping. On more than one occasion he tried to make her have sex with his friends for money. On one occasion he raped and beat her in front of the children. This was such a violent attack that Carmella had to seek medical attention. At that time she had visible bruising on her face, eyes, legs, neck, and breasts. After this incident Carmella obtained a restraining order against her husband and he is being prosecuted for spousal rape and battery. He is currently in jail awaiting his hearing.

George has not only been abusive to the Carmella, but he has also been physically abusive to the children. She, at one time, left him and went to a shelter. Due to her lack of money she allowed him to convince her to return.

During their relationship, George would not allow Carmella access to any money. He also kept her from seeing her family and from making any new friends. Carmella now does field work to support

herself and her children. Because of her immigration status she is unable to get any other type of work. Her children's school, where she does volunteer work, has offered her a number of jobs but she has been unable to accept them.

This case came from the Prudence Crandall Center for Women in New Britain, Connecticut

LITA

Lita* came to the United States, from Poland, on a tourist's visa. While vacationing she met Bob*, a U.S. citizen, through mutual friends. They were married in the U.S. in 1988. They had one child during their relationship. After they were married Bob filed a petition for Lita to get Conditional Residency however when it came time for him to talk to INS he said that he preferred that his wife not be allowed to stay in the U.S.

During their marriage Bob was very abusive towards Lita. There were many incidents of physical violence including incidents when she was pregnant with their child. When she left her husband and went to a shelter Lita arrived with a black eye and other bruises on her face. She had also spent time in a different shelter previously. On one occasion Lita required medical treatment for injuries to her head that she received during one of these attacks. Bob's mother lived with the couple and she and Bob were constantly verbally and emotionally abusive to Lita. On several occasions Bob kept Lita locked in her bedroom and she was always kept isolated from all other people. The police had been notified on one occasion, and Bob was arrested however, the charges were later dropped.

Lita left Bob and filed for a restraining order. When Bob requested that she be sent back to Poland he also decided that he wanted to keep their child. The couple obtained a divorce and custody was awarded to Lita. Lita had filed for an extension period so that she could have more time before she left the U.S. and she was informed that the extension was denied. She was given a deadline for which she could voluntarily leave the U.S. at which time she voluntarily returned to Poland to avoid being deported.

While Lita was living in the U.S. she obtained training to be a nurse's aide. She was planning to work in that field. It is unknown whether or not she has been able to obtain work in Poland. She will be unable to apply for re-entry into the United States for at least 5 years.

This case came from MANAVI in Montville, New Jersey

DANIELLE

Danielle* is 27 years old. She came to the United States, from India, after she married Tony* a U.S. citizen. Their marriage had been arranged by her family in India. He told her that he would file for her to get residency in the United States and soon after they were married he did file a petition.

When they came to the United States to live they resided with Tony's family. His family was very controlling of her right from the beginning. They verbally abused her daily. Along with this constant harassment from Tony's family Danielle was subjected to frequent physical abuse from Tony. This physical abuse began immediately after the couple were married. He frequently hit her with his fists leaving visible marks on her face and body. The police were called out to the home on more than one occasion due to these attacks. He also refused to let her out of the house and his family helped him keep track of everything that she did. One of the ways that he controlled her was to tell her that if she did not do what he told her to do that he would withdraw the petition that he had filed for her and have her deported.

Danielle left her husband on one occasion by walking out of the house and going to a shelter. She then obtained a restraining order against her husband. Soon after that he convinced her to take a "reconciliation trip" with him to India. When they got to India he destroyed all of her documents including her passport. He left her there reportedly thinking that she would be unable to return to the United States without him. She obtained a quick passport and returned to the U.S. to find that he had withdrawn the petition for her to get residency.

After learning that Tony withdrew his sponsorship of her Danielle contacted an immigration attorney to assist her with her immigration problem and she tried to start a new life. While Danielle was in India, after Tony had left her there, Tony had destroyed all of her possessions that were in their home. When Danielle moved into a place of her own Tony continuously followed and harassed her. On one occasion he broke down her door and violently assaulted her.

Danielle is trying to put her life back together but it is tough for her. She speaks only broken English which together with her immigration status and her lack of skills and transportation is making it difficult for her to find work to support herself.

This case is from the San Benito Victim/Witness Assistance Program in Hollister, CA.

CONSTANCE

Constance*, originally from Mexico, married Peter*, a U.S. Citizen, while in the U.S. When they were married Constance had 2 children from a previous marriage. The couple have been married for 5 years. He constantly promised to file a petition for her to get permanent residency, but he never followed through.

Peter was a drug user and took all of their money for drugs. Many times he left Constance without any money for food or milk for the children. Once in the middle of winter he physically threw Constance and the children out of the house and would not let them back in.

Peter has been physically violent towards Constance throughout their marriage. On many occasions he would push her, shove her, slap her, punch her, or physically move her around. He constantly threatened her that if she ever called the police to report that he was abusing her or the children he would call immigration and have her deported. At one time Constance did leave Peter. She took her children and went to a battered women's shelter. She did not have any means of transportation so they had to go to a shelter in the same town where the couple had lived. Peter tracked them down and begged Constance to come back to him. To get her to return Peter said that he filed a petition for her. When she did return to him he constantly threatened to withdraw the petition. Constance is quite certain that he either never filed the petition or that he withdrew it as she has been unable to find out anything about her papers and to this date has not heard anything from INS.

Although Constance was distressed about the abuse that she suffered from Peter, she was also very upset about the abuse that one of her sons had been suffering. On one occasion he stabbed that son in the buttocks. After this incident that son was extremely afraid of Peter. Peter later forced this boy into shop-lifting by threatening him with further physical violence and telling him that if he did not do this then he would call INS and have his mother deported. When Constance learned of this she turned her husband in to the police. He was prosecuted and is now in jail. From jail Peter sends Constance letters threatening her that she better not see anyone else while he is away and that he could still report her to INS.

Constance is still afraid of Peter. She is now cleaning houses to support herself and the children as she is unable to obtain a secure job due to her lack of residency.

This case came from AYUDA in Washington D.C.

SARAH

Sarah* is 24 years old. She is originally from Panama. Her husband David*, also originally from Panama, has established Lawful Permanent Residency status for himself. When Sarah came to the United States and married David he filed a n I-130 on her behalf.

The couple have a six year old child who was born in Panama before they were married. After the marriage the isolation and intimidation began. David would not allow her to work. He demanded that she remain at home to take care of their child. He also did not allow her to use the telephone and would call her during the day to make sure that she was at home.

After a year of marriage David began to come home from work and yell at Sarah threatening that he would withdraw her petition if she did not do what he wanted her to. When she received some money from her father it was David who spent it. He often told her to leave the apartment and often threatened to throw her out of the window of their fourth floor apartment. When Sarah refused to leave, because she didn't have anywhere to go, David began throwing her clothes out of the window. He then grabbed Sarah and forced her out the apartment door. When Sarah tried to gather some of the clothes and go back into the apartment David began hitting her. He hit her in the face and on her back. She tried to run to the closet and he followed her continuously hitting her. This all took place in front of their young child. Sarah was able to get away from the apartment and call the police. She eventually obtained a civil protection order (CPO).

The CPO required that David not threaten, assault, molest, or physically harm Sarah in any way. David was also ordered to attend counseling and not to withdraw the petition that he had filed on behalf of Sarah. Sarah was unable to get a vacate order because the apartment was in a third person's name. In order for Sarah to get her name on the lease she would have had to have shown proof of income, references, etc. Since Sarah was undocumented she was unable to find work and show proof of income. Because of her isolation she had no references.

A month later David sent Sarah to New York to live with one of his relatives. Sarah had no money, no ability to attain work and she had a child to support. It was two months before she could afford to make the trip back to Washington D.C. Only a month after returning he sent her and the child away to Miami for five months.

A year later David began this behavior again. He began threatening Sarah that he would withdraw her petition and demanding that she move out of the apartment. He changed the locks on the apartment and would not give Sarah a copy of the keys. When she got back into the apartment David had the electricity and water turned off so that she would move out. He wanted her to move out so that

he could have another woman move in with him. He told her again to move and she refused. He began to beat her. She was hit in the face, breasts and her back. When the baby began to cry she was hit and pushed to the ground.

Another CPO was filed allowing Sarah to stay in the apartment and ordering David to pay child support. Sarah went to California to live with her sister. Soon after she arrived she began to get threatening phone calls from David. She was so frightened that she no longer wanted to receive child support from him. She was also afraid that he would withdraw her petition. David has said that he did withdraw her petition.

This case comes from The New York Asian Women's Center in New York, New York

DEBBIE

Debbie* is from the Southeast part of China. She married her husband Charlie* while they were both still living in China. Charlie left her and their children behind in China while he went to the United States to find work and to establish Lawful Permanent Residency for himself. Eventually, after he did establish Lawful Permanent Residency status for himself, he sent for Debbie and the children to come to the U.S to be with him. Debbie and the children entered the U.S. on a visitor's visa. Soon after they arrived Charlie took them to an immigration attorney. Charlie sponsored the 2 children and filed petitions for them but he said that it would be too expensive to also file for Debbie and that she would have to wait.

Charlie informed Debbie, for the first time, that he was also seeing another woman while he had been in the U.S. and that he wanted Debbie and the children to live with him and his new girlfriend. Debbie told him that she did not want to live like that and he beat her. He beat her a few more times before the final time after which she left him. On that occasion he beat her severely and then tied her to a bed. He kept her there for quite awhile until the children found her and untied her. She then left and went to stay with some of her family that lived close by. The police were called and Debbie was taken to the Emergency Room for treatment. The police photographed Debbie's wounds. As a result of this incident Debbie had cuts on her face, bruises, loss of vision in one of her eyes, and visible rope burns on her wrists and ankles where she had been tied to the bed.

After the above incident, Debbie obtained a restraining order against Charlie. She also began a criminal case against him for spousal battery. Debbie was having a hard time supporting herself and her children on her own so her family helped her file a petition for child support. When Charlie was served with the papers asking for child support he became very angry. Charlie and his new girlfriend accused her of trying to murder them and they pressed charges against Debbie and then had her arrested. When she was arrested the police then dropped her case against Charlie because they said that they were not sure that they could believe her. At this time the photographs that the police had taken of her injuries from the last battering attack could not be located by the police. The District Attorney lowered the charge to illegal possession of a firearm, which Debbie insists that she never possessed, and Debbie accepted a plea-bargain. The only reason that Debbie accepted the plea-bargain was that unless she did her children would have been sent into the Foster Care system.

Charlie withdrew the petitions for the children to get residency after Debbie had filed for child support. At the present time she is not receiving any money from him to help support the

children. Debbie's family is allowing her and the children to stay with them but, her family is unable to help her with other financial needs. She is very afraid to leave the Chinatown area where she resides with her family as she does not speak very much English and she is very afraid of Charlie. She tries to find odd jobs to support herself and the children but this is very difficult as she is undocumented.

This case came from the San Benito County Victim/Witness Assistance Program in Hollister, CA

ARIEL

Ariel* is originally from Mexico. She met and married Sean*, a U.S. citizen, when she was very young. During their 17 year relationship they had 4 children together. He promised to help her get residency but he never began the process.

Sean was constantly physically violent to Ariel. It was normal behavior for him to punch her, hit her, slap her, pull her hair and lock her out of the house. There were numerous incidents where she fled the house and had to jump over the backyard fence to get away from him. As she recalls he abused her at least one time a week during their marriage. He also frequently sexually assaulted her and many of those occasions included him sodomizing her. Apart from his abuse of her there was occasional physical abuse to the children. On more than one occasion she fled, with the children, to a battered women's shelter only to return to him out of fear that he would call immigration and have her deported as he had often threatened to do. The abuse was so severe that one of her children suffered a stroke that was said to have been caused by witnessing such severe violence.

Throughout their marriage Sean had kept Ariel isolated from any outsiders. He made her stay in their house at all times and he would not let her have any contact with the neighbors. She was also not to use the phone at all. He was extremely controlling over every aspect of her life even as to what clothes that she could wear. One example of this was that he forbid her to wear pantyhose.

Ariel left Sean again and decided to stay away. She was forced to keep moving because he would always find out where she was living and go after her. She left the area because she feared that he would take the children which he had previously threatened to do. He found out where she was and convinced her again to return to him by saying that he would file papers for her. The abuse continued and during one particularly bad incident of abuse the neighbors, hearing what was going on, called the police. The police came and he was arrested. She has left him and is living with the children. He still comes to her home and breaks in as he feels that it is his right to do so. She has had a hard time finding work to support herself and her children as she is still undocumented. She has managed to get a part-time job at a large discount store and that is how the family is being supported at this time. She still feels very intimidated by her husband as he will not leave her alone.

This case came from the Law Offices of Rabinowitz and Rabinowitz in Dallas, Texas.

SHAMIKA

Shamika* entered the United States, from Nigeria, on a student visa to attend college. While in school she met Tony* a Naturalized U.S. citizen who is also originally from Nigeria. The couple were married for over 4 years and had 2 children together.

During their marriage Tony was extremely violent towards Shamika. He often hit her and choked her by clenching his hands around her throat. There are numerous police and hospital reports that describe the abuse and injuries that Shamika received as the result of Tony's attacks on her. The couple lived with Tony's mother who did not approve of their marriage. Tony's mother was also physically abusive to Shamika. There are numerous police and hospital reports that detail severe bite wounds that were inflicted on Shamika by her mother-in-law. Some of those bites required stitches.

Two years after the couple were married Tony filed papers for Shamika to get Conditional Residency however, when it came time to go in for the interview he refused to appear. Seven days before the scheduled interview he had filed for a divorce. Before the divorce became final he had gone back to Nigeria and found another wife. He had left Shamika with their children to support on her own. She had completed 3 years of college but was unable to finish her education because she could not attend classes, work full time and care for her children. She has been able to secure a low-paying job as they have not asked her about her immigration status. She is a hard worker and is sincere about wanting to provide a decent life for her children.

This case came from the Sanctuary for Families, Inc. in New York, New York

JACQUELINE

Jacqueline* is a 30 years old and originally from Peru. She came to the United States and while she was here she met and married Michael*, a United States citizen. She has one child, a 12 year old girl, that is still living in Peru. After the marriage Jacqueline's husband refused to petition for her to receive her conditional residency.

Jacqueline's husband was very abusive towards her. During their marriage there was constant physical abuse from him. On one occasion he held her prisoner in their home for three days. On many occasions he physically pushed her around the house and he constantly made threats to kill her. Since their marriage Jacqueline has found out that Michael is HIV positive. He had never told this to her and she is quite worried about the effect that this could have on her own health.

Michael is addicted to drugs and all of the money that the couple had went to buy drugs. Jacqueline was forced to find a job which was difficult because of her immigration status. The abuse from Michael was frequently worse on Jacqueline's pay day as he demanded all of the money that she made. On one occasion he waited outside of her work place and at knife-point demanded the money that she had just been paid. After this incident Jacqueline obtained a restraining order against her husband. An immigration attorney is currently trying to get her some help with her immigration problems.

This case comes from the San Benito County Victim/Witness Assistance Program in Hollister, Ca.

ANITA

Anita* is originally from Tijuana, Mexico. She married Juan* also originally from Mexico. Juan had established Lawful Permanent Residency for himself in the United States. They were married in the United States. During their 13 year marriage the couple had 3 children. At no time during the marriage did Juan file a petition for Anita to obtain residency.

Juan was physically violent towards Anita throughout their marriage. He frequently hit her and quite often threatened to kill her. On one occasion while the family was riding in the car Juan began punching Anita. In an attempt to escape, Anita jumped out of the moving car. Juan then followed her and tried to run her over with the car. Later Juan told Anita that if he had run her over it would have been easy to explain. He could simply say that he had been out looking for her and as it was dark he did not see her and accidentally ran her over. On a separate occasion he began beating her inside their home. She attempted to run outside for safety. He followed her and threw her down on the sidewalk. He then proceeded to repeatedly slam her head against the pavement. He continued slamming her head against the sidewalk even though neighbors had begun to come outside their homes. One of the neighbors called the police. Anita was unconscious for 3 days as a result of this incident.

Although Juan constantly abused Anita she was afraid to call the police for assistance. Juan had told her many times that if she called the police that he would call INS and have her deported. He also told her that if this did happen then he could take the children and she would never see them again. Anita finally left Juan and filed for a divorce. After she left he continued harassing her threatening that he would charge her with abandonment and then he would get the kids.

Anita is having a hard time on her own. Her children, all male, are growing up to behave just as their father behaves. They are very domineering over Anita. They demand to know where she is at all times and they verbally abuse her constantly. Also she has been unable to secure steady work because she does not have immigration papers to show to a prospective employer. She has been earning money through occasional house cleaning jobs and some seasonal field work.

This case came from the San Benito Victim/Witness Assistance Program in Hollister, CA

CATRINA

Catrina* is originally from Mexico. She married Miguel* who had established Lawful Permanent Residency for himself in the United States. They were married for 3 years and he never petitioned for her to get her residency.

Although her husband was not physically abusive towards her he was verbally abusive to her almost daily. He gave her no money and he did not contribute to their expenses at all. There were many times when he would not even come home at night leaving Catrina to wonder if he would return or not. Not only did she find him intimidating, but he was also controlling over everything that she did. After they were married he once told her that he would not petition for her to get residency because by not doing so he could guarantee that she would stay with him. She felt that she had to stay with him. After some time and some counseling she finally left her husband. He never did file a petition for her.

This case came from the Ass. of the Bar of the City of New York

MARIA

Maria* is a Columbian citizen who married Victor*, a Salvadorian citizen who had established Lawful Permanent Residency status for himself in the United States. Maria had one daughter from a previous marriage. They lived in the New York area.

When the couple got married they established a joint checking account and they purchased a building together. After that all of the finances were handled by Victor. Soon after their marriage Victor became very abusive towards Maria, both physically and verbally. He would frequently hit and slap her. He also became physically abusive towards Maria's daughter. Although Victor had previously promised to file papers for Maria to get residency, after their marriage he refused to help her.

After a few years of constant physical abuse, Victor left Maria, and told her that he was going to file for a divorce. It was not until Maria tried to get some money from their joint checking account that she found out that he had closed out the account and had taken all of the money that had been in the account. She later found out that he had also transferred title to the building that they had purchased together to another person.

Maria was left with no money and had no idea whether or not Victor had filed for a divorce. She contacted a Legal Aid program in New York for help with her immigration matters, as she was finding it difficult to get work. She was referred to a pro bono attorney and they are working on her case.

This case came from the Polish Welfare Association in Chicago, Illinois.

EVA

Eva* is 36 years old. Her husband, Alex*, is a naturalized U.S. citizen from Poland. Eva met him when he returned to Poland to find a wife. They couple returned to the U.S. and were married. After they were married Alex started the paperwork for her to get residency.

Soon after they were married Eva became pregnant. After she delivered their child she began to feel that Alex had married her only so that she could produce a child. He began trying to convince her that she should return to Poland. He also began beating her regularly. Alex went to INS and said that he preferred that his wife return to Poland as he did not want her to stay in the United States.

As Alex's violence towards her increased, Eva began to search for help. She did not want to have to return to Poland as her child was a U.S. citizen and her husband had convinced her that he would be able to keep their child in the U.S. with him. She found that here was nothing that could be done about her immigration status because he withdrew the petition and requested that she be deported.

Eva had obtained an order of protection against her husband. She now has their child with her and she is trying to support herself and their child. This has been difficult as she lacks English language and communication skills however she has been able to find some work. At last contact deportation proceedings had been initiated against her.

This case came from the Sanctuary for Families, Inc. in New York, New York

CARMEN

Carmen* is 28 years old. She is originally from El Salvador and she came to the United States in 1981. She married Robert*, a U.S. Citizen, in 1991. They have 3 children ranging in age from 3 years to under 1 year. Robert said that he would start the paperwork for her residency status but he then refused to do so.

Throughout their relationship Robert has been physically violent towards Carmen. He drinks quite often and his drinking escalates his violence. Frequently he would slap her, push her, and throw her against the wall. He has caused her to suffer severe bruising on her body. He has also been physically abusive to one of their children.

The majority of the abuse that Carmen has suffered from Robert has been sexual. He has violently sexually assaulted her on several occasions. On one occasion he forced her to have anal intercourse which was so violent that she had to be hospitalized due to injuries from the incident.

During their relationship Robert refused to give her money for essential items needed for the children. When Carmen got a job as a hairstylist to make money to buy food for the children, he harassed her so much at work that she was forced to quit.

Carmen has left Robert, with the children, and is trying to find a way to support herself and the children.

This case came from MANAVI in Montville, New Jersey

SHANHI

Shanhi* is in the late 20's. She came to the United States, from India, as the result of an arranged marriage to Ken* a U.S. citizen. Ken told her that he had filed the papers for her to become a resident in the U.S. however, she has not heard anything about her status. Also Ken constantly threatens her that she does not have status and that if she does not do what he tells her to do he will have her deported.

After they were married Ken became excessively controlling over Shanhi. He wanted to, and did, control all of her behavior. She was not to leave their house or to make or accept any phone calls. He also controlled all of the money in the household. She could only eat the foods that he approved and could only eat when he said that she could do so. She was not allowed to bathe or do anything else unless he first told her that it was o.k.

Ken also became physically abusive towards Shanhi. He would often slap, hit or punch her many times leaving large bruises. She also reported that he would force her to have sex with him but would not say any more about the sexual abuse than that it did happen. She did get a restraining order against her husband and they were separated for 10 days however she returned to him when he continued to threaten her that if she did not come back he would contact INS and have her deported. She is still living with him in constant fear of him and of being deported.

This case came from the San Benito Victim/Witness Assistance Program in Hollister, Ca

DIANA

Diana* is originally from Mexico. She came to the United States and met Christopher* a U.S. Citizen. They lived together for 4 years before they married. Christopher never filed the papers for Diana to get residency status in the U.S.

When Diana entered into the relationship she had 2 children from a previous marriage but they did not live with her. The couple, had 2 children together. Christopher was a drug addict and frequently both physically and verbally abusive to Diana.

Diana's children came to live with the couple. The children had not been there for more than 3 weeks when Diana found out that they were being severely sexually molested by Christopher. When she confronted him with this he told her that if she called the authorities he would call INS and have her deported and that he would be able to keep their 2 children. Diana was afraid because she felt that he could do this and she was torn between protecting her 2 children that were being molested and seeing her other 2 children. The molestation was reported and the children were removed from the home by Child Protective Services.

Diana did leave Christopher and she cooperated with law enforcement. She filed for a divorce and tried to make it on her own. She was unable to secure a job because of her legal status. She had no way of supporting herself and her children. Eventually she returned to Christopher. He continues to abuse her both physically and verbally but she stays with him because she has nowhere else to go. He still has not filed a petition for her.

This case comes from SAKHI for South Asian Women in New York, New York.

ROHINI

Rohini* is originally from Bangladesh. She came to the United States on a visitors visa. She met and married her husband in the U.S. and he told her that he would sponsor her. Her husband had obtained his Lawful Permanent Residency through a previous marriage. Rohini's husband did file a petition for her, but then he began physically and emotionally abusing her. He told her that he wanted to marry someone else and that he wanted a divorce. Meanwhile he continued abusing her. Finally she moved to a battered women's shelter and is so terrified of her husband that she does not want to contact him even to ask him to complete the papers with INS. At one point INS contacted Rohini's husband and asked for further information to process her petition and he refused to supply any information. At this point her paperwork is at a stand still and her husband will not do anything to assist her.

Rohini has a daughter born in the U.S. and because of this she has been able to get some public assistance. She is currently living in public housing but is having a hard time. She is constantly depressed and apathetic. She also thinks that everyone is conspiring against her. She has written to INS and requested copies of all paperwork that her husband had previously submitted but she has not received a reply. The case workers at SAKHI are trying to help her deal with INS and are hoping that she will be able to complete her papers alone.

This case came from the Sanctuary for Families, Inc. in New York, New York

ROSA

Rosa* came to the United States in October of 1990 on a visitor's visa from Paraguay where she was born. During her visit she met Rick* who was also originally from Paraguay. Rick had established Lawful Permanent Residency status for himself in the United States. Rick had promised to begin the paperwork for Rosa so that she could obtain residency but after they were married he refused to help her.

Rick was constantly physically abusive towards Rosa. The couple married for 1 1/2 years when they had a daughter. The worst incident occurred just days after their daughter was born. Rick dragged Rosa out of her bed and began hitting her. He poked her in the eye which resulted in her almost losing sight in that eye. Rosa had to be taken to the Emergency room and from there she was taken to a battered women's shelter.

Presently Rosa is unable to obtain work both because of her immigration status and because she has to take care of the baby. Her daughter, who was born in the United States, is eligible for some government assistance and that is all that Rosa and her daughter have to live on. Rosa is forced to keep moving around because Rick is still looking for her and her daughter. She is very afraid that he will find her and take her daughter away from her.

This case came from Cameron House in San Francisco, California
PING

Ping* is a 28 year old Chinese woman who married John*, a 55 year old U.S. citizen who went to China and arranged the marriage with Ping's family. After 6 months of marriage the couple came to the U.S. and resided in Boston. John said that he would file papers for Ping to get her residency status, but to her knowledge he never did.

The couple has one child. After their child was born John became very violent towards Ping. John would frequently not come home, and would never give her money for food or other things that her and the baby needed.

Ping was able to find a job in a sewing factory so that she could make some money to buy things for her and the baby. John knew when Ping got paid. As soon as she would get her paycheck her would demand the money. If Ping did not give him the money, he would beat her. On many occasions he hit her on the head with his fist, shoved her against the wall, and randomly punch her leaving bruises on various parts of her body.

Ping finally left John and took the baby with her to a shelter. John found out where she was, and made her come back home. When she returned he continued to physically abuse her and to steal the money that she brought home for food. Ping left John again. This time a friend helped her relocate to a new state where she is currently living in a shelter. She speaks very little English and is having a difficult time finding a job. She has heard that John is still looking for her to drag her back.

This case comes from the Assn. of the Bar of New York City Pro Bono Dept.

SABINA

Sabina* is originally from Columbia and she has lived in the United States for 4 years. Two years ago she married John* who is originally from San Salvador but has established Lawful Permanent Resident status for himself in the United States. John had promised to help Sabina establish residency for herself. At one time he did file a petition only to revoke it a short time later. He never filed for her again. Sabina has two children, one from a previous relationship in Columbia and one from her relationship with John.

John was abusive with Sabina from the beginning of their relationship. One of the tactics that he used was to withhold money from her often leaving her without enough money to buy food for herself or their daughter. When he would become angry John would throw and break things in their home and then he would hit her, many times leaving purple bruises. When she was pregnant John would frequently punch or kick her in the abdomen. Sabina also admits that there was sexual abuse from John but she says that it is too ugly to talk about. Sabina also reports that John sexually molested their daughter.

There were many times, after attacks by John, that Sabina would have liked to have seen a doctor however she was too afraid to do so. After some of the violent incidents Sabina called the police, but John would always leave their residence before the police arrived.

John left Sabina and she is trying to forget about the things that she endured during the relationship but this is very difficult. John and his new girlfriend have written her nasty letters telling her that they are going to report her to INS and have her deported. Sabina once worked as a receptionist but gave that up during the marriage. She would like to work again but since John put a stop to her papers in Columbia she is unable to secure employment because of her lack of immigration status. Sabina is having a hard time surviving on the little money that her daughter is eligible to receive from the government. She has a sister that tries to help her but she is still having a hard time providing for herself and her daughter.

This case came from A Women's Place in Urbana, Illinois

DORA

Dora* is 26 years old. She came to the United States, from Africa, on a fiance visa to marry Eric* also a student originally from Africa, who had established Residency for himself in the U.S. When they were married Eric said that he would take care of filing a petition for Residency for Dora. When Dora's fiance visa expired Eric refused to file the petition for her.

During their marriage Dora endured numerous violent physical attacks by her husband. She also reported that at times these attacks included rape. He was very controlling over her and manipulative. Eric had threatened that he would abandon her and that is exactly what he ended up doing. He took her to New York and he left her there without any money or means of support. She was able to find some work as a live in nanny but the family that hired her only kept her for awhile as they were friends of Eric's. From that job she had saved enough money to go back to Illinois. After she returned she was able to support herself by getting jobs as a nanny as that was the only type of work that she could find due to her lack of documentation. Through a shelter she was able to find an Immigration attorney that agreed to help her try to obtain citizenship. She is currently a volunteer in a battered women's shelter in Illinois.

This case came from an agency in St. Paul Minnesota

MONIQUE

Monique* is in her mid 20's. She came to the United States, from a Middle Eastern country, to marry a United States citizen, Tom, through an arranged marriage. They were married in July 1990. He never attempted to help her establish residency and he frequently threatened to have her deported.

Tom was physically abusive to Monique from the very beginning of their marriage. He assaulted her with his fists leaving bruises, and on at least one occasion a swollen lip. Tom was also extremely verbally and mentally abusive to Monique. On one occasion he took her to an area where she had never been and left her there to find her own way home. Frequently when they were out in public he would shout obscene things at her in public to further embarrass her.

The couple lived with Tom's parents and they constantly tormented and ridiculed her about not bringing enough dowry with her to the marriage. The couple were not married for very long when her husband threw her out of their home claiming that she did not have enough dowry. She has found a job at an Indian newspaper but she does not have much money and is worried about her immigration status. She is very afraid that she will have to return to the Middle East as a divorced woman. There is a stigma to being a divorced woman in the Middle East and her family would not take her back in because of the shame it would bring to them. She also knows that it is very difficult for a woman to live on her own in the Middle East.

This case comes from Clackamas Women's Services in Milwaukie, Oregon.

SANDRA

Sandra* is originally from Mexico. She married Thomas* in Mexico while she was still very young. After they were married Thomas went to the United States to get work, and to establish Lawful Permanent Residency for himself. Sandra's father had abused her throughout her childhood and she hoped that her life with Thomas would be better. When Thomas sent for her to come and live with him in the U.S. she ended up living with Thomas, his father, and many of his cousins where she was forced to sleep in a small laundry room. Thomas and his relatives frequently did drugs and Thomas drank a lot. When he was drunk he would severely beat Sandra. Sandra also suffered abuse when she would attempt to prevent Thomas from beating their child. Most of the times that Thomas attacked Sandra he would use his fists. On more than one occasion, he threatened to use a knife to hurt her.

Many times Thomas promised that he would complete the paperwork for her to become a U.S. citizen, but he never did. Eventually Sandra obtained a restraining order against Thomas. One of her biggest problems is now housing. She has been denied transitional housing because of her lack of immigration status. The couple has one child and Sandra is currently pregnant. Sandra lives with her child in a battered women's shelter and is trying to find housing for herself and her child. Although she can sometimes find work illegally in a cannery, Sandra has been unable to secure a permanent job because of her immigration status. Thomas knows of the difficulties that Sandra is having because of her immigration problem. He has threatened Sandra that if she does not return to him he will report her to INS.

This case came from Project Sanctuary in Ukiah, CA

CORETTA

Coretta* is in her late 30's. She has been married for over 4 years to Paul* a U.S. citizen. She had come to the U.S. on a medical visa and met and married Paul before the visa expired. At that time she had been working to support herself. After they were married he moved them both to a remote area where she was unable to continue working. The couple had 2 children together, both of them girls. Paul never started the process for Coretta to get residency in the United States.

Paul was physically abusive towards Coretta. He would frequently hit her and on several occasions he severely beat her. Paul also beat the children. A neighbor viewed him trying to suffocate one of the children and called Child Protective Services. At that time Coretta left him and went to a battered woman's shelter where she filed a restraining order against him. He was in jail for a short time as a result of trying to suffocate the child. She then moved to another town where Paul's family said that they would give her a place to live in safety from him. They eventually told him where she was and he convinced her that if they could reconcile he would file a petition. Instead she was beaten and she again fled to a battered woman's shelter. She is trying to live on her own however she is having a difficult time. Even though she is fairly well educated due to her lack of immigration status she is only able to get part-time jobs, illegally, in the restaurant industry.

This case comes from SAKHI for South Asian Women in New York, New York

VANGI

Vangi* came to the U.S. after her marriage in Pakistan. She came on a visitor's visa and her husband now refuses to file papers for her. She has 2 children aged 11 and 13. She is also very ill and requires the use of a dialysis machine twice a week.

Vangi's husband is both physically and emotionally abusive towards her. He now has a girlfriend and he allows the girlfriend to live in the house with them. He makes Vangi sleep on the floor while he and the girlfriend sleep on the bed. Her husband sides with the girlfriend in everything. He has threatened to have Vangi deported and to keep the children here with him. On one occasion he succeeded in having her sent back to Pakistan for two years but she filed for maintenance and was able to return to the U.S. (during the time that she was away he had kept the children here with him).

She is still living with her husband and his girlfriend because she has nowhere to go. The case workers at SAKHI are trying to work with Vangi's husband to try and get him to petition for her, but so far it hasn't worked. She is afraid to get a restraining order against him and meanwhile both her husband and her husband's girlfriend are abusing her.

This case comes from AYUDA in Washington, D.C.

LILIANA

Liliana is a 22-year-old woman from El Salvador who married Juan, a permanent resident from Guatemala, in 1989. In January of 1990, Juan completed a petition I-130 on behalf of Liliana and her two daughters born of another relationship. By the summer of 1990 their marriage began to suffer from domestic violence.

Juan would often come home intoxicated and at one point, in the summer of 1990, he threw himself on top of Liliana, who was in bed. When Liliana tried to get away, Juan scratched Liliana's back from shoulder to shoulder. Liliana eventually locked herself in the bathroom until she could no longer hear Juan beating on the door.

In December of 1990, the violence became more severe. Juan beat Liliana in her face until her nose began to bleed severely. He also punched her head, leaving bumps. Juan's violence began to occur in public as well. He would often force Liliana into their car and take her to their apartment, where the beatings would continue. Juan began to repeatedly threaten to kill Liliana and often told her he was going to buy a gun. This violence continued throughout the marriage until Liliana left the home in August of 1991.

Liliana was able to attain a Civil Protection Order but this did not stop Juan. Juan continued to threaten Liliana and tried to convince her to return to him or else he would withdraw the petition I-130. Juan began to stalk Liliana and threatened to show other men a tape he allegedly had made of he and Liliana having sex. Liliana often wanted to file motions to adjudicate contempt for his repeated violations of her civil protection order but would not go forward with a case for fear that Juan would withdraw the petition.

In January of 1992, Juan came to the home of Liliana and broke out the car windows and filled her gas tank with dirt. At this point, Liliana decided to go forward with the contempt proceedings. Juan was found guilty and sentenced to 45 days in jail. A few months later Juan withdrew the petition I-130 on behalf of Liliana and her children.



This case came from Mujeres Latinas En Accion in Chicago, IL

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 15 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? NO
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? YES
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? AT TIMES, GOING TO SHELTER
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? YES
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS _____

PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

- A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

There was constant physical abuse. Client has an order of protection against her husband.

- B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

She is trying to find another way to obtain legal status.

This case came from CAWC in Chicago, IL

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 15 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT?
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT?
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? YES
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

The client was abused frequently by her husband. She left him and went to domestic violence shelters on several occasions. He frequently told her that he would call INS and have her deported then he would take their children.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

She went to a domestic violence shelter and stayed until she moved out on her own. After living on her own for awhile she ended up returning to the abuser. He never filed papers for her.

This case came from SEC in Eugene, OR

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 12 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? YES
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? UNSURE
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? YES
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS _____
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

There was physical violence towards the client for many years/ The couple has separated twice.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

The couple is still together and the abuse continues.

This case came from Mujeres Latinas En Accion in Chiago, IL

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 12 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? YES
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? NO
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? NO
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? YES
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION YES
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES

9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

- A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

Client's husband frequently threatened to report her to INS especially when the client was attempting to get an order of protection through the criminal court.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

Client is staying married to he husband hoping that he will complete the process for her to get her residency.

This case came from Haven Women's Center in Modesto, CA

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 12 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT?
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? NO
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

Client's husband has been abusive towards her throughout their marriage and she has put up with it. Finally she got out of the abusive relationship and went to a battered women's shelter. Even after she left her husband he continued to threaten to have her deported.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

She left her husband for good and with no other alternative she returned, with her 3 children, to Mexico even though she knew that it would be harder to support them there.

This case came from CAWC in Chicago, IL

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 12 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? YES
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? YES
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? NO
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS _____
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

This client was forced to call the police many times because of her husband's abuse. She was terrorized by her husband. He has caused her to go to the emergency room for treatment many times. The last incident involved him throwing her out of a moving vehicle after which she suffered severe injuries.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

After the last incident of abuse she went to a battered women's shelter. She has now moved out with some other women and is earning money cleaning houses.

This case came from CAWC in Chicago, IL

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 10 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? _____
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? NO
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS _____
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT
RESIDENT

The client's spouse became extremely violent towards her. He was also physically abusive with the children.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

The client went to a shelter for awhile and then tried to move out on her own. After struggling for awhile she is considering returning to the abuser.

This case came from AWARE, INC. in Lakeport, CA

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 9 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? NO
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? YES
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? YES
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION YES
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT
RESIDENT

Client's spouse was physically and emotionally abusive to both the client and their children. He constantly threatened to send them her back to the country that she was from if she did not submit to his abuse and his every demand.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

While she was waiting to get a divorce she tried to get her

citizenship. An immigration attorney was helping her with this. During this time her husband continued to harass her at every opportunity.

This case came from SEC in Eugene, OR

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 8 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? _____
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS _____
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

The client's husband has been extremely physically and emotionally abusive towards her for many years. The couple have been separated and reunited several times.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

The client finally left her husband for good. She had no opportunities here and was forced to return to Mexico.

This case came from Haven Women's Center in Modesto, CA

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 8 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY N THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? NO
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

The client has been abused for their entire marriage. She left twice seeking shelter but feels that he can take her children away. She has been subjected to all kinds of abuse: physical, sexual and emotional.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

Client has left her husband and gone to live in another part of the state with her mother. Because she is undocumented she could not get a job and was having a hard time supporting herself and her child.

This case came from the Riverside County Coalition for Alternatives to Domestic Violence in Riverside, CA

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 7 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? YES
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? _____
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? _____
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION YES
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

There was extreme emotional, verbal, physical and some sexual abuse. The client left her husband on one occasion only to return a short time later.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

The client left her husband and, through the shelter that she fled to, found an immigration attorney that is trying to help her.

This case came from CAWC in Chicago, IL

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 7 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT?
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY?
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION
REPORT CLIENT TO INS
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

This woman has been abused continuously. She left her husband and went to a domestic violence shelter because she was pregnant and feared that the baby would be hurt during one of the attacks as she has been beaten on her stomach.

She obtained a one year order of protection and he was put on probation. He was also ordered into mandatory counseling.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

She has returned to the abuser.

This case came from El Refugio in Silver City, NM

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 5 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? _____
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? _____
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? _____
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? _____
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS _____
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

She was constantly physically and verbally abused.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

She returned to her country.

This case came from CAWC in Chicago, IL

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 5 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? NO
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS _____
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

This client had suffered physical abuse from her husband and their daughter had also been hit when her husband was angry.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

The client, out of fear for her own and her child's safety, left the abuser and went to a shelter. She was unable to get access to support or a job and due to lack of resources she returned to the abuser.

This case came from CAWC in Chicago, IL

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 5 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? YES
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? YES
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? _____
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO :
REVOKE PETITION YES
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

The client had left her husband once due to his abuse however she then returned. Extreme emotional abuse turned into physical and sexual abuse. He also kept her isolated in their home by locking the doors and not letting her outside.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

She left and went to a shelter. She has moved out of the shelter and obtained work as a live-in housekeeper.

This case came from the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Madison, WI

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? SEVERAL YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? _____
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? YES
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

There was a great deal of physical violence. On one occasion the client was hospitalized due to injuries to her head and torso that were inflicted on her by her husband. On several other occasions she had to seek treatment for injuries caused by beatings from her husband.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

The client went to a shelter. Her husband tried to keep their only child but she got temporary custody. She is working with an immigration attorney that is trying to help her with her immigration problem.

This case came from Mother Lode Women's Center in Sonora, CA

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? MANY YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? _____
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? _____
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? _____
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

There was a history of various forms of physical abuse from the client's husband to her. There were also many threats of turning her over to INS for deportation.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

The client was afraid to leave the abuser because of his threats. She was given the name of an immigration attorney that would try to help her however that was the last contact with her. Her case worker is not sure whether or not she followed up with the attorney.

This case came from St. Paul Intervention Center in St. Paul, MN

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? UNSURE- MANY YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? YES
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? YES
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? _____
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? _____
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

The client was treated like a prisoner. Her husband would not allow her to have food, she was kept in isolation, and she would have to sleep on the floor unless he would rape her. There was also frequent incidents of punching and beating.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

She is still with her husband.

This case came from Haven Women's Center in Modesto, CA

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 4 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? NO
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY N THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? NO
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS _____
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

During the first month of their marriage the client was physically abused by her husband. Four months later she fled to a shelter because he had threatened her with a gun.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

Client returned to batterer because she could not find work or resources to support herself. She had no legal documentation and this made matters worse for her. After she returned to her husband she again called for shelter however, she remained in the home with the batterer.

This case came from Mujeres Latinas En Accion in Chicago, IL

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 4 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? NO
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES TWICE TEMPORARILY
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? YES
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

There have been many instances of physical abuse but the emotional abuse has been constant.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

She lives with her husband but she is living in constant fear.

This case came from SEC in Eugene, OR

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 3 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? YES
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? _____
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? _____
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? _____
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION YES
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

The client was verbally and physically abused by her husband. She left her husband on one occasion but returned shortly afterwards.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

She is currently still living with her husband.

This case came from CAWC in Chicago, IL

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 3 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? YES
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? YES
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? NO
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS _____
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

The client was physically abused weekly and before she fled to a shelter the frequency of incidents was increasing.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

She moved to a battered women's shelter and after awhile she moved out to try and make it on her own.

This case came from CAWC in Chicago, IL

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 3 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? _____
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS _____
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

There were weekly incidents of physical abuse. The client's husband often threatened to kill her if she ever left him.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

After one abusive incident she left and went to a shelter. She stayed in the shelter for awhile and then moved out on her own. Due to lack of resources she is considering returning to the abuser.

This case came from Haven Women's Center in Modesto, CA

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 3 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT?
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY N THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? NO
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

Her husband has abused her for 3 years. She sought shelter in May 1992 and was very afraid of what he might do to her.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

The client felt desperate because of her husband's threats to report her to INS or kill her. She returned to her husband and the abuse.

This case came from SAFE in Vallejo, CA

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 2 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? YES
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? _____
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

The client's husband was extremely abusive towards her. There were frequent incidents of physical abuse such as: punching, slapping, choking and kicking. Also he was constantly verbally abusive. There were many threats that he would report her to INS and that he would take their child.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

At last contact with this client she was attempting to get a restraining order against her husband.

This case came from Mujeres Latinas En Accion in Chicago, IL

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 2 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? YES
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? NO
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? TEMPORARILY
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? YES
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION YES
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

The client suffered severe physical and emotional abuse from her husband. She now has an order of protection against him.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

Client is still involved in the relationship and is hoping for him to change. She is enrolled in a support group for battered women.

This case came from the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo County in San Luis Obispo, CA

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 2 YEARS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? YES
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? YES
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? _____
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? _____
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? _____
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION YES
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

Client was originally from Portugal. When she married a U.S. citizen he began to treat her like a slave. He was physically violent with her on numerous occasions. On one of those occasions he kicked her in the head repeatedly. He was also verbally abusive to her at all times. He also threatened to harm other members of her family.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

Client is still living with her husband. She does not know what else to do as she feels that there is no other alternative for her except to stay with him.

This case canme from Project Sanctuary in Ukiah, CA

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 18 MONTHS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? YES
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? YES
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NO, HE DID
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? NO
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS _____
HE MADE THREATS BEHIND HER BACK TO DO THIS
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

There was extreme physical and psychological abuse, deprivation of needed medical attention, disposal and destruction of client's personal property. He had filed the original petition and 6 months before the 2 year permanent residency filing date he filed a dissolution of marriage. He then began to set her up for deportation by filing false crime reports saying that she stole money and a firearm from him. When he asked her to perform illegal financial transactions, she said no and left him. When she filed her own dissolution action she learned of the already existing action. She found out that he had successfully done this to one other woman and had attempted to do it to a second.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

Client was able to obtain financial assistance from friends and to get the first dissolution set aside and for the dissolution that she filed to be honored.

This case came from WOMAN, INC. in San Francisco, CA

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 1 YEAR
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? _____
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? _____
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO :
REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

He has molested their child and has threatened to beat her up if she turns him in or he goes to jail. He also threatens to turn her in to INS. She obtained a restraining order against him and she turned him in to Child Protective Services.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

Her attorney has advised her to leave the country because she is undocumented. She is still undocumented but it is unknown whether or not she left the country.

This case came from AWARE, INC. in Lakeport, CA

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 2 MONTHS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? NO
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? NO
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? NOT YET
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? NO
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION _____
REPORT CLIENT TO INS _____
9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

Client's husband stabbed her several times. He also bruised her ribs.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

Client had nowhere to go and could not speak English. INS told her that they would send her back to Mexico where her family was living. In reality they dumped her, with her 2 small children, in Tijuana with no money. She called the agency in the U.S. that had helped her as she was scared and did not know what to do but they could not help her. That is the last that the agency heard from her.

This case came from El Refugio in Silver City, NM

1. WAS THE CLIENT MARRIED TO EITHER A U.S. CITIZEN OR A LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
2. HOW LONG WERE THEY MARRIED? 3 1/2 MONTHS
3. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER STARTED THE PETITION PROCESS? _____
4. DID THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER REVOKE THE PETITION AFTER STARTING IT? _____
5. DID THE CLIENT FILE FOR TERMINATION OF THE MARRIAGE? _____
6. DID THE CLIENT EVER LEAVE THE U.S CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT? YES
7. DID THE CLIENT AT ANY TIME STAY IN THE MARRIAGE IN ORDER TO GET RESIDENCY? _____
8. HAS THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT EVER THREATENED TO : REVOKE PETITION YES
REPORT CLIENT TO INS YES

9. PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN

A. THE VIOLENCE/ABUSE THAT OCCURRED IN THE CLIENT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. CITIZEN OR LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT

He was abusive towards her. He would not let her use any of his things like soap, food etc. Also he was sexually interested in her 15 year old daughter.

B. THE OUTCOME OF THE CLIENT'S SITUATION

She left him and relocated to a new area.