

## Victim Witness Resource-Victim Intimidation Brochure

What May HAPPEN WHILE YOUR CASE IS PENDING...

*If you experience any of the above, it is important to let the Victim Witness Coordinator know. It is unlawful for defendant to intimidate you while their case is pending.*

### **THE DEFENDANT MAY ATTEMPT to “REWRITE HISTORY” OR TRY to CONFUSE YOU ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE INCIDENT.**

- “I never said those things. I would never threaten you or hurt you.”
- “It’s my property. I can do what I want to it.”
- “This is all a misunderstanding.” Or “You’re not really hurt.”

### **THEY MAY MINIMIZE WHAT HAPPENED**

- “We were just arguing! I shouldn’t go to jail for this.”
- “The police blew this way out of proportion. I barely touched you.”

### **THE DEFENDANT MAY MAKE EXCUSES FOR WHAT HAPPENED, APOLOGIZE, SEND YOU GIFTS, AND PROMISE TO CHANGE.**

- “You know how much stress I’m under.”
- “I was drunk. I promise I’ll get sober.”
- “It was an accident. You know I would never intentionally hurt you.”
- “I’m sorry - I just snapped. You know how much I really love you.”
- “It will never happen again, I promise.”

### **THE DEFENDANT MAY BLAME YOU FOR THE ARREST, ATTEMPT to MAKE YOU FEEL GUILTY, AND CLAIM to be THE VICTIM.**

- “This never would have happened if you had (had not) ...”
- “You started it! You’re always nagging me.”
- “You never should have called the police. Now look at the mess we’re in!”
- “Why are you doing this? You’re tearing our family apart.”
- “This could cost me my job.”
- “What did you tell them? How am I supposed to defend myself?”

### **THE DEFENDANT MAY TRY to TALK YOU OUT OF APPEARING IN COURT.**

- “If you don’t show up in court, this will all go away.”
- “You can get them to drop the charges.”

### **THE DEFENDANT MAY THREATEN YOU.**

- “If you show up in court, you’ll pay for it.”
- “You have to drop the protection order! If you don’t, I’ll be homeless.”
- “If you don’t drop the charges ... I’ll have you deported. I’ll report you to Child Protective Services, I’ll withdraw your immigration case I filed.”
- “If you show up in court, I’ll fight you for custody of the kids.”
- “If you testify against me, I’ll have to teach you a lesson.”

**No matter what the abuser says...**

- **The abuse is not your fault.**
- **You do not deserve to be abused.**
- **Any consequences the defendant receives are not your fault.**
- **You cannot drop the charges. The State is bringing the charges.**
- **Victims with immigration concerns may be able to receive protection from deportation.**

**\*Instead of jail time many defendants are offered probation and programs that may include counseling, drug or alcohol treatment, mental health programming, and batterer’s treatment.**

*\*This brochure was developed in collaboration with prosecutors from across the country.*

**National Immigrant Women’s Advocacy Project (NIWAP, pronounced *new-app*)**

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