

RIGHTS

REMEDIES

RESOURCES



This resource guide was created by the Los Angeles Domestic Violence Prevention Collaborative (LADVPC), a joint project of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), the Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL), and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

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A COMMUNITY GUIDE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
RESOURCES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY
2007

IMPORTANT: If you are worried your abuser may find this guide, hide it in a safe place or give it to a friend, neighbor or family member.

THE LOS ANGELES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE

A Resource Guide for Domestic Violence Victims and Advocates

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**REMEMBER:
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE A LIFE FREE OF VIOLENCE!**

DISCLAIMER: This guide provides general information on available resources for domestic violence victims in the Los Angeles, California region. Although we have made every attempt to verify the accuracy of the information for the listed resources, such information can always change. More importantly, the law can always change. If you have a specific legal problem, you should consult with a lawyer who has experience in that particular area of law.

Introduction

This resource guide was created by the “Los Angeles Domestic Violence Prevention Collaborative”, a joint project of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), the Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL), and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). All three organizations recognize that domestic violence is a serious issue that affects all communities, and cuts across racial, social, gender and economic lines. For that reason, the collaborative has put together a guide to increase awareness of victim’s rights and of the many supportive services that are available.

Please direct comments or suggestions regarding this guide to any of the three partner agencies:

Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC)

1145 Wilshire Blvd., 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017
Phone: (213) 977-7500, Fax: (213) 977-7595
www.apalc.org

Founded in 1983, the mission of APALC is to advocate for civil rights, provide legal services and education and build coalitions to positively influence and impact Asian Pacific Americans and to create a more equitable and harmonious society.

Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL) Milken Family Literacy & Youth Training Center

5414 S. Crenshaw Blvd.,
Los Angeles, CA 90043
Phone: (323) 292-8111, Fax: (323) 292-7851, TTY: (323) 291-6184
www.laul.org

Founded in 1921, the mission of LAUL is to enable African Americans and other minorities to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights through advocacy activities and the provision of programs and services in our uniquely diversified city and region.

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

634 S. Spring St.
Los Angeles, California 90014
Phone: (213) 629- 2512, Fax: (213) 629- 3120
www.maldef.org

Founded in 1968, MALDEF, the nation’s premier Latino civil rights organization, promotes and protects the rights of the Latino community through advocacy, community education and outreach, leadership development, higher education scholarships and litigation.

HEALTH CARE



Your physical health is just as important as your emotional health. These organizations can help provide you with primary health care and can help you identify whether you qualify for certain government health insurance benefits such as Medi-Cal.

Name	Telephone	Services	Languages
Clinica Monsenor Oscar A. Romero Community Center	(213) 989-7700	Primary care facility that provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care • Dental care • Health education and • Mental health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish
Asian Pacific Health Care Venture (APHCV)	(323) 644-3888 Call to make an appointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An enrollment worker can help identify if you qualify for Medi-Cal or other public health insurance • If you qualify for services, APHCV can provide primary health care and integrated mental health services, if necessary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Indonesian • Japanese • Khmer • Tagalog • Thai



I. HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

1) IF YOU ARE BEING ABUSED, YOU ARE NOT ALONE: There are people and organizations that can help you. This guide can show you how to do the following:

- Find a **safe place to live**
- Get a **restraining order** against your abuser
- Get free or low-cost **legal help** (especially for issues such as immigration and family law)
- Find **other free or low-cost supportive** services such as counseling, employment services, public benefits and health care

2) IF YOU ARE NOT A U.S. CITIZEN OR PERMANENT GREEN CARD HOLDER AND EVEN IF YOU ARE UNDOCUMENTED, you have rights as a domestic violence victim. The resources in this guide are for everyone, regardless of status.

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence happens when one person uses fear, intimidation, physical violence or the threat of violence, to control someone. It can happen between husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends, same sex partners, parents and children, as well as between other family members. It can happen inside or outside the house. Domestic violence is a crime in the United States.

Domestic Violence is abusive behavior that can be any or all of the following:

- **Physical:** The abuser hurts you physically. Physical abuse can include slapping, kicking, pushing, pinching, burning, throwing things, pulling hair.
- **Sexual:** The abuser forces you to have sex or perform sexual acts when you don't want to. Even if you are married or in a dating relationship, *forced sex* is rape.
- **Verbal:** The abuser calls you names, insults you, threatens you, makes you feel worthless or that there is something wrong with you.
- **Emotional/Intimidation:** The abuser tries to control you by making you feel afraid and powerless, or tries to isolate you from family and friends.
- **Financial:** The abuser controls all of the finances, including access to bank accounts, credit cards, and debit cards. He/she forbids your from working, or forces you to work but controls the money you make.
- **Threats of deportation or other immigration threats:** The abuser threatens to call immigration and deport you. He/she refuses to help you get a green card or threatens to take away the children because you do not have legal status.

IMPORTANT: The MALDEF NO ABUSO INFORMATION LINE:

Much of the information in this resource guide is also available by telephone. Call **1-866-NO ABUSO (1-866-662-2876)** to access confidential, anonymous, free information in English and Spanish with a 24-hour recorded message that provides referral information on shelters, crisis counseling, healthy relationships, domestic violence prevention, and community services that may be provided at little cost to you and your family, regardless of your immigration status.

II. WHAT SHOULD I DO FIRST?



1) CALL 911 for emergencies

If you are in immediate danger, call 911 to get emergency medical help, or help from the police or fire department.

IMPORTANT: Even if you do not have legal status, you still have the right to call the police and get help. The police should not ask you about your immigration status and you *DO NOT* need to tell the police your immigration status.

2) CRISIS HOTLINE NUMBERS

If you need immediate domestic violence services, there are different hotline numbers you can call anytime. **All calls made to hotlines are anonymous and confidential.**

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE			
Hotline	Services	Other Services	Languages
National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE 1-800-799-(7233) <i>For Deaf or Hard of Hearing Individuals:</i> 1-800-787-3224 (TTY)	A national 24-hour referral and safety planning line for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelters • Legal Services • Counseling and more 	Referrals for those who identify as LGBT*, and people with disabilities * <i>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish You can request other languages
If you have a Verizon Wireless cellular phone, you can dial #HOPE to reach the National Domestic Violence Hotline automatically			

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINES AND RESOURCES			
Hotline/Contact	Services	Other Services	Languages
Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-978-3600	A 24-hour referral line for domestic violence services	Referrals for those who identify as LGBT, and for people with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish You can request other languages
Los Angeles County Infoline Just dial: 211	A 24-hour referral line for domestic violence services and much more (see page 18 for more details).	Referrals for those who identify as LGBT, and for people with disabilities	You can request a variety of languages
Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney (Victim Assistance Program) (non-24 hour) Central Office: (213) 485-6976 <i>For Korean victims:</i> (213) 485-9889	Helps victims of crime (like domestic violence) with expenses related to the crime: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical bills • Counseling • Funeral and burial • Provides information on the criminal court process 	Referrals for those who identify as LGBT and referrals to other resources available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Korean Other languages may be available.

EMPLOYMENT



Financial freedom is a key element for you to feel more confident to survive on your own and avoid returning to the abusive relationship. These are some resources to help you find a job or assess your skills to help you upgrade your job. Please note that domestic violence victims also have special employment law rights. For more information, please contact the legal aid organizations listed on pages 14-17.

Name	Telephone	Services	Languages
Chicana Services Action Center, Inc.	(323) 264-5627	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to job database • Assistance with resume writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish
Los Angeles Urban League (LAUL) Business & Career Work Source Centers	(323) 600-1106 (Los Angeles Office) (323) 525-3740 (West Adams) (909) 623-9741 (Pomona Office)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career search assistance • Business & Career preparation workshops • Employer recruitments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment (PACE) (Westlake Work Source)	(213) 353-1677	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career counseling • Job referrals • Job placement assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Mandarin • Cantonese • Armenian • Russian



PUBLIC BENEFITS

You may qualify to receive certain public benefits such as cash aid, food stamps, and Medi-Cal depending on your immigration status and the status of your children. Generally U.S. citizens and green card holders qualify, but some immigrants with special visas or status, or emergency medical needs, may also qualify.

Name	Telephone	Services	Languages
Department of Public Social Services (DPSS)	1-800-613-3777 (Customer Service Center)	Call to see if you qualify for public benefits such as CalWORKs, food stamps, and Medi-Cal, and to find out how to apply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Chinese • Spanish • Vietnamese • Other languages available
Women, Infants and Children (WIC)	1-888-942-9675	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and nutrition program for pregnant women, new mothers and children under five • Call to find out how to qualify and apply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Other languages available

COUNSELING CENTERS AND SUPPORT GROUPS
Continued

Name	Contact	Services	Languages
Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Center (APCTC)	(213) 252-2100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can provide out patient mental health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Cantonese • Mandarin • Korean • Tagalog • Thai • Vietnamese
Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center STOP Partner Abuse/Domestic Violence Program	(323) 860-5806	Provides services for the LGBT population including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survivor's groups • Individual counseling • Couples counseling • Court approved batterer's intervention program • Crisis counseling <p><i>* This center also does specialized assessments, can give referrals to LGBT- sensitive shelters and specific legal services, and can provide partner abuse prevention groups and workshops, as well as LGBT domestic violence training, education and consultation</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish

2) CRISIS HOTLINE NUMBERS continued

HOTLINES FOR TEENS AND CHILDREN			
Hotline	Services	Specialized Services	Languages
National Teen Dating Abuse Helpline 1-866-331-9474 <i>For Deaf or Hard of Hearing Individuals</i> 1-866-331-8453 (TTY) www.loveisrespect.org (Online chatting available)	A 24-hour support line for teens, parents, friends and family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A trained advocate is available 24 hours a day • From 2 pm to 10 pm (Pacific Standard Time), Teen Peer counseling is available 	Youth counselors have training on LGBT community issues and are able to counsel and refer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish You can request other languages.
National Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-422-4453	A 24-hour child abuse crisis intervention line. Information and referrals to parents and children for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency social services • Domestic violence • Legal services • Mental Health • Parenting classes • Other supportive resources 	Referrals for LGBT children and support groups for families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English You can request other languages

ELDER ABUSE HOTLINE			
Hotline	Services	Other	Languages
National Elder Abuse Hotline/ Eldercare Locator 1-800-677-1116 (711 TTY)	Line is open from 6 am to 5 pm (Pacific Standard Time) and provides information and referrals for those: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 years and older • Individuals of any age who have a disability and are receiving SSI or Medicare 	Referrals for people with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish You can request other languages



III. SHELTERS

If you and your children are being threatened, or are in immediate danger, you can stay with a trusted friend or with family. Also, you can contact a domestic violence shelter for free or low-cost housing, regardless of your immigration status. A shelter can provide a safe and temporary home for you and your children. All shelters **hide their address** from the public for the safety of their staff and residents.

1) WHAT DO SHELTERS PROVIDE?

Most shelters provide all of the following for free:

- **Emergency and longer term housing and food**
- **Individual counseling for adults and children**
- **Domestic violence support groups**
- **Parent support groups**
- **Child care**
- **Legal advocacy and referrals for legal help** (for issues such as restraining orders, child custody and immigration)

Some shelters offer special services such as:

- **Help for victims of human trafficking**
- **Drug and alcohol treatment**
- **Mental health services**
- **Life skills education**

2) HOW DO I ENTER A SHELTER?

You can call the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-978-3600 to find out about shelter openings in Los Angeles. Or, you can contact a shelter directly. It is okay to call shelters that are not in the area where you currently live. In fact, your local shelter may ask you to stay in a shelter outside of your area, so that you will be farther away from your abuser. As well, sometimes a shelter may refer you to another one if they don't have space, or if another shelter can better help you because of language, culture or because you need special services.

IMPORTANT: When you call a shelter, they will ask about your situation to see if they can take you in. They may also ask you for sensitive information, such as your immigration status. Shelters **will not** share this information, or any other information, with immigration officials.

- ❖ Many shelters provide services in a variety of languages, offer a broad range of services, and try to be sensitive to different cultures and backgrounds.
- ❖ Many shelters are sensitive to the needs of underserved communities and can provide specific referrals for individuals who identify as LGBT, or for individuals with disabilities.
- ❖ The following is a list of a few shelters located in Los Angeles that provide services to a diverse community and have services in different languages. It is not a comprehensive list. For a more complete list, see page 7.

VI. OTHER SERVICES

As a survivor of domestic violence, there may be other supportive services you may need. The following is a list of resources in Los Angeles County where you can find free or low-cost services for counseling and support groups, for access to public benefits, for help finding a job, or help accessing health care.



GENERAL SERVICES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Name	Contact	Services	Languages
211 Los Angeles County Infoline	Just dial: 211	A 24-hour referral line for services such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care • Counseling • Employment • Food • Housing • Legal assistance • Medical help/ Hospitals • Mental health • Utilities and more Can offer specific referrals for people who identify as LGBT or disabled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Armenian • Cantonese • Farsi • Korean • Mandarin • Tagalog • Vietnamese • Other languages may be available



COUNSELING CENTERS AND SUPPORT GROUPS

If you feel depressed, angry or anxious, you may want to talk to a therapist or counselor. This can help you deal with the abuse you have experienced, and help you to heal.

If you are in a shelter, your shelter can provide or find counseling services for you and your children. If you are not in a shelter, here are some resources:

Name	Contact	Services	Languages
Peace Over Violence	Call for an appointment: (213) 955-9090 West San Gabriel Valley: (626) 584-6191	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual counseling • Support groups • Art and visualization healing and empowerment <i>*Peace Over Violence also provides legal advocacy, and offers parenting classes and self-defense classes.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals available

FREE LEGAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR FAMILY LAW HELP

Continued

ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE	LANGUAGES
Harriet Buhai Center for Family Law www.hbcfl.org	(213) 388-7515 Monday – Thursday 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm Please call first Appointment Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish
Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) www.apalc.org	English: (213) 977-7500 Please call first Appointment required Chinese: (800) 520-2356 Khmer: (800) 867-3126 Korean: (800) 867-3640 Vietnamese: (800) 267-7395	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mandarin • Cantonese • Khmer • Korean • Vietnamese • Other languages may be available
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ) www.laclj.org	(323) 980-3500 Please call first Appointment required <i>*LACLJ can only help clients who live in certain zip codes. Please call to see if you qualify for services.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Mandarin • Other languages may be available
Community Legal Services - Compton, Norwalk (Part of the Legal Aid Society of Orange County)	English and other languages: (800) 834-5001 Please call first Appointment required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish

SHELTERS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

SHELTERS THAT PROVIDE SERVICES IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH			
Shelter	Telephone	Services	Languages
Chicana Services Action Center, Inc.	1-800-548-2722 24-hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency shelter • Transitional shelter • Homeless shelter • Counseling services • Support groups • Parenting classes • Women less than 5 months pregnant, boys under 12 years old and girls under 17 years old welcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish
Haven Hills	1-818-887-6589 24-hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency shelter • Transitional shelter • Teen program • Counseling/Outreach clinic • Community education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish
Jenesse Center, Inc.	1-800-479-7328 24-hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency shelter • Transitional shelter • Legal services • Classes for women and children • Child care • Pregnant women, boys under 13 years old and girls under 18 years old welcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish
Peace and Joy	1-310-898-3117 24-hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency shelter • Transitional shelter • Pregnant women and children under 12 years old welcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish
SHELTERS THAT PROVIDE SERVICES IN ENGLISH AND ASIAN LANGUAGES			
Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF)	1-800-339-3940 24-hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally sensitive services with a focus on Asians and Pacific Islanders • Emergency shelter • Transitional shelter • Counseling • Children's program • Other supportive services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Chinese • Japanese • Korean • Vietnamese • Other Asian languages
Asian Pacific Women's Center (APWC)	1-213-250-2977 (downtown LA) 1-626-282-8004 (Alhambra) Monday-Friday 9 AM – 5 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidential transitional shelter • Community resource referral • Multilingual and multicultural capacities • Art empowerment workshops • Community outreach and education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mandarin • Bengali • Korean • Taiwanese • Thai • Vietnamese

MORE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS

Shelter	Telephone
Angel Step Inn English, Spanish	(323) 780-HELP or (562) 944-6144 (800) 655-2226 (Alcohol/Drug Program) TDD: (562) 947-4833
Refugee Safe Haven English, African languages	(800) 496-2525
East L.A. Shelter English, Spanish	(323) 268-7564
L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center (non-24 hour)	Mental Health: (323) 860-5806 Legal: (323) 993-7649
1736 Family Crisis Center – South Bay English, Spanish, Farsi	(310) 370-5902 (Adult) (310) 379-3620 (Youth)
1736 Family Crisis Center – South Central English, Spanish, Farsi	(213) 745-6434 or (213) 745-2095 TDD: (213) 370-1002
1736 Family Crisis Center - Long Beach English, Spanish, Farsi	(562) 388-7652 or (877) 367-7752
Good Shepherd Shelter For Battered Woman & Children (English, Spanish)	(323) 737-6111
Haven House – Pasadena English, Spanish	(323) 681-2626
House of Ruth – Pomona English, Spanish	(909) 988-5559
Rainbow Services - San Pedro English, Spanish	(310) 547-9343
Sojourn - Santa Monica English, Spanish	(310) 264-6644
Su Casa - Long Beach English, Spanish	(562) 402-4888
Tamar House – San Fernando Valley	(818) 505-0900
Valley Oasis Shelter English, Spanish, Male victims	(800) 282-4808
YWCA WINGS – West Covina English, Spanish	(626) 967-0658
Women’s & Children’s Crisis Center – Whittier (English, Spanish)	(562) 945-3939
YWCA Glendale Spanish, Armenian, Russian, Lebanese	(818) 242-1106
Peace Over Violence Spanish, American Sign Language	(213) 626-3393 or (310) 392-8381 TDD (213) 955-9095 West San Gabriel Valley: (626) 793-3385
South Asian Network (non-24 hour) Hindi, Urdu, Bangla, Punjabi, Gujarati	(800) 281-8111

*The information was taken from the Los Angeles Police Department brochure on domestic violence created in October 2007.

FREE LEGAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR FAMILY LAW HELP

The following organizations focus on providing free services for domestic violence victims, regardless of immigration status. Please call to see if you qualify for services. Even if these organizations cannot help you, it is important to call and find out what your legal rights and options are.

ORGANIZATION	TELEPHONE	LANGUAGES
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) www.lafla.org	English/Spanish: (800) 399-4529 Chinese: (323) 801-7912 Japanese: (323) 801-7913 Khmer: (562) 304-2523 Korean: (323) 801-7987 Vietnamese: (323) 801-7923 Please call first Appointment required <i>*LAFLA also has a family law clinic at the Los Angeles Superior Court Central District which focuses on providing family law advice for qualified low-income individuals:</i> <u>LAFLA Toll Center</u> 111 N. Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 Department 8, Room 245 • Focus is on domestic violence, child abduction/concealment, and other emergencies regarding children and sexual assault • Walk-in: First come, first served • Monday, Wednesday, Fridays only • 8:30 am to 11:30 am and 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm <i>*LAFLA also has general self-help clinics at the Inglewood, Long Beach, Santa Monica and Torrance Courthouses. Contact LAFLA for more information.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Various Asian Languages • Other languages may be available
Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) www.nls-la.org	(800) 433-6251 Please call first Appointment required <i>* NLS also has self-help clinics at the Antelope Valley, Pomona, San Fernando, and Van Nuys Courthouses. Contact NLS for more information.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Mandarin • Cantonese • Armenian • Other languages may be available

Legal Services – Family Law

REMEMBER: If you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent green card holder or you are undocumented it is very important to talk with an immigration attorney before filing or responding to a family law case. This is because your family law case could affect your immigration case and your immigration case could affect your family law case.

FAMILY LAW

You have certain family law rights, regardless of your immigration status.

Divorce

A divorce is the most common way to end a marriage. In a divorce, you can get help with the following issues:

- Child custody
- Child visitation
- Child support
- Spousal support
- Dividing of property and debts

You have a right to legally end your marriage even if:

- You do not have legal status
- You got married in another country
- Your spouse does not want a divorce

Paternity

If you are not married to your children's father, you can file a **Paternity Action** which can help you with the following issues:

- Child custody
- Child visitation
- Child support

At the end of your case, you will have a judgment that establishes who the legal father of the child is, and can give you orders regarding custody and support.

IMPORTANT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONSIDERATION:

For any family law case (Divorce, Paternity, Restraining Order, etc.), if you are a victim of domestic violence, you should ask the Judge to consider this when making decisions about custody and visitation. For example, you should ask for primary custody of the children. You can also ask the court to order supervised visitation for the abuser, so that he/she cannot visit with the children alone.

IV. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS

If you or your children are in immediate danger of violence or are being threatened with violence, you may need a **domestic violence restraining order**. This is a court order that can protect you and your children by telling your abuser not to contact or come near you. **You do not have to have legal status** to obtain a restraining order. There are two kinds of restraining orders: Criminal and Civil (both are free).



CRIMINAL RESTRAINING ORDERS

Q. WHAT IS A CRIMINAL RESTRAINING ORDER?

A: If you call the police, they may help you get a temporary criminal restraining order (called an **Emergency Protective Order or EPO**) if they believe you are in immediate danger. This order can tell your abuser not to contact or come near you, but will only last for a few days. If your abuser is arrested and there is a criminal case against him, the Judge in the criminal case may give you a more permanent criminal restraining order (called a **Criminal Protective Order or CPO**) that can last for a few years.

Q: HOW DO I APPLY FOR ONE?

A: You cannot directly apply for a criminal restraining order. You can try and ask the police to help you get a temporary EPO. If there is an ongoing criminal case, you can ask the City Attorney or District Attorney to help you get a more permanent CPO.

CIVIL RESTRAINING ORDERS

Q. WHAT IS A CIVIL RESTRAINING ORDER?

A: This is a court order that a family law Judge can give you. The Judge can order your abuser not to contact or come near you or your children. You can also ask for temporary child custody and visitation orders, child support, and in some cases, you can ask the court to order your abuser to move out of your shared residence.

Q: HOW DO I APPLY FOR ONE?

A: If you are 12 years or older, you can apply for yourself. You have to fill out certain paperwork and appear in front of a Judge.

Q: HOW SHOULD I PREPARE?

A: Start writing down the incidents of abuse, especially the most recent incidents. Gather evidence of the violence, or threats of violence, such as pictures of your injuries, medical records, police reports or recorded voicemails, e-mails, or letters from your abuser.

Q: WHAT IS THE COST TO GET A RESTRAINING ORDER?

A: There is no court fee to file and you can get free help to prepare your paperwork.

Q: WILL I HAVE TO SEE MY ABUSER IN COURT?

A: You may have to because your abuser has a right to argue against the restraining order at court. He/she may also try to ask for their own restraining order against you, if he/she can prove you are threatening or hurting them.

Q. WHO CAN HELP ME FILE FOR A CIVIL RESTRAINING ORDER?

A. If you are in a shelter, they can help you file. If you are not in a shelter you can get free help at the courthouse, or you can also contact a local legal aid organization for free help.

**ASSISTANCE WITH FILING A CIVIL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
RESTRAINING ORDER**

IMPORTANT: If you already have a restraining order, or another family law case filed somewhere else, make sure you tell the person helping you with your current restraining order case. Other cases may affect where you can file your current case.

1. Courthouse Assistance

If you live in Los Angeles County, you can find free help at different legal clinics located in courthouses throughout the county regardless of your immigration status. **Remember, the family court system is separate from the immigration system.**

If you live anywhere in Los Angeles County you can file your family law case, including restraining orders, at the Los Angeles Superior Court, Central District. You can get help from a free domestic violence restraining order clinic located there. You can call for recorded information about the clinic, or for more information about the court, you can call the court directly.

Los Angeles Superior Court – Central District

Los Angeles Superior Court	Domestic Violence Clinic	Courthouse Contact	Hours
Central District 111 N. Hill St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 Department 8 2 nd Floor Room 245	Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) (213) 624-3665 for recorded information	(213) 974-5587 (Court Domestic Violence Department)	Walk-in First come, first served Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 11:30 am 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm <i>*There may be a small processing fee, but a waiver of this fee may be possible.</i>

Los Angeles Superior Court - Branch Courthouses

There are also several local “branch” courthouses that have free restraining order clinics. These clinics are generally not run by the court but are located in the courthouse. All of the clinics are walk-in clinics with different hours of operation. For more information about the courthouse, you can call the court directly as well.

Branch Courthouse	Domestic Violence Clinic	Courthouse Contact	Hours
Antelope Valley 42011 4 th Street West Lancaster, CA 93534 3rd Floor, Room 3920	Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS)	(661) 974-7200 (Main number)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-in • Monday, Wednesday, Friday • 9 am – 1 pm
Burbank 300 E. Olive Ave. Burbank, CA 91502 Room 113	Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS)	(818) 557-3482 (Civil and Family Law)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-in • Monday, Wednesday, Friday • 9 am – 1 pm

LEGAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR IMMIGRATION HELP

The following organizations focus on providing free services for domestic violence victims, regardless of immigration status. Please call to see if you qualify for services. Even if these organizations cannot help you, it is important to call and find out what your legal rights and options are.

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT	LANGUAGES
Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) www.lafla.org	English/Spanish: (213) 640-3913 Please call first Appointment required Chinese: (323) 801-7912 Japanese: (323) 801-7913 Khmer: (562) 304-2523 Korean: (323) 801-7987 Vietnamese: (323) 801-7923 <i>*LAFLA focuses on domestic violence-related immigration cases</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Various Asian Languages • Other languages may be available
Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) www.nls-la.org	(800) 433-6251 Please call first Appointment required <i>*NLS focuses on domestic violence-related immigration cases</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Mandarin • Cantonese • Armenian • Other languages may be available
Public Counsel www.publiccounsel.org	(213) 385-2977 Please call first Appointment required (Closed 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm) <i>*Public Counsel focuses on: VAWA, T-Visa, U-Visa, Asylum and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Other languages may be available
Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) www.apalc.org	English: (213) 977-7500 Please call first Appointment required Chinese: (800) 520-2356 Khmer: (800) 867-3126 Korean: (800) 867-3640 Vietnamese: (800) 267-7395	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mandarin • Cantonese • Khmer • Korean • Vietnamese • Other languages may be available
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice (LACLJ) www.laclj.org	(323) 980-3500 Please call first Appointment required <i>*LACLJ can only help clients who live in certain zip codes. Please call to see if you qualify for services.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Mandarin • Other languages may be available

V. LEGAL SERVICES - Immigration and Family Law

If you are thinking about ending your abusive relationship, you may have some questions about what will happen to you or your children. It is important to understand both your immigration and family law rights so that you do not have to be afraid of leaving your abuser.



REMEMBER: If you are not a U.S. citizen or permanent green card holder or if you are undocumented it is important to talk with an immigration attorney and a family law attorney before starting any legal procedure or before responding to a family law case started by your abuser.

Legal Services - Immigration

IMMIGRATION LAW

If you are a domestic violence victim, and you are undocumented, or have temporary status in the United States, you may have certain options to obtain permanent legal status. Here are some common situations where you may have an option. This is very general legal information—it is important to talk with an immigration attorney about your specific case and about your ability to apply for any of these remedies.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

If you are married to your abuser, and he/she is a U.S. citizen or green card holder, you may qualify to get a green card through VAWA. Generally, you have to prove:

- Your marriage is legal
- You married in good faith (not just for a green card)
- You lived with your spouse
- Your spouse abused you

Immigration and Marriage Fraud Act (IMFA)

If you have a conditional green card from your abusive spouse, you may qualify to apply for a permanent green card on your own if you are a domestic violence victim. Generally you have to prove:

- Your marriage is legal
- You married in good faith (not just for a green card)
- You lived with your spouse
- Your spouse abused you

U-VISA

If you are a domestic violence victim, or victim of another crime, and this crime was reported to the police, you may qualify to apply for a U-Visa and later get a green card. Generally, you have to prove:

- You are a victim of a crime (domestic violence is a crime in the U.S.)
- You cooperated with law enforcement (such as the police or the City Attorney or District Attorney) in the investigation or prosecution of the crime
- You suffered serious injury because of the crime

Los Angeles Superior Court - Branch Courthouses Continued

Branch Courthouse	Domestic Violence Clinic	Courthouse Contact	Hours
<u>Compton</u> 200 West Compton Blvd. Compton, CA 90220 9th floor Clerk's office	Community Legal Services – Compton <i>(Part of Legal Aid Society of Orange County)</i>	(310) 603-7842 (Civil and Family Law)	• Walk-in • Monday to Friday • 9 am - 12 pm
<u>Inglewood</u> One Regent Street Inglewood, CA 90301 2nd Floor, Room 204	Jenesse/ Inglewood Court	(310) 419-6788 or (310) 419-6789 (Court/Clinic)	• Walk-in • Monday to Thursday • 9 am - 4 pm (Closed 12 -1:30 pm)
<u>Long Beach</u> 415 W. Ocean Blvd. Long Beach, CA 90802 1st Floor, Room 102	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)	(562) 491-5925 (Family Law)	• Walk-in • Monday, Wednesday, Friday • 9 am to 11:30 am • 1 pm to 3:30 pm
<u>Norwalk</u> 12720 Norwalk Blvd. Norwalk, CA 90650 2nd Floor Room 202A	Community Legal Services – Norwalk <i>(Part of Legal Aid Society of Orange County)</i>	(562) 807-7300 (Family Law)	• Walk-in • Monday to Friday • 9 am - 12 pm
<u>Pasadena</u> 300 E. Walnut St. Pasadena, CA 91101 1st Floor Room 100B	Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA)	(626) 356-5689 (General Court Information)	• Walk-in • Monday to Friday • 9 am – 12 pm
<u>Pomona South</u> 400 Civic Center Plaza Pomona, CA 91766 7th floor, Room 701	Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS)	(909) 620-3107 (General Court Information)	• Walk-in • Monday to Friday • 9 am – 1 pm
<u>San Fernando Court</u> 900 3rd St. San Fernando, CA 91340 Room 1025	Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS)	(818) 898-2671 (Family Law Filing window)	• Walk-in • Monday to Friday • 9 am – 1 pm
<u>Santa Monica Court</u> 1725 Main Street Santa Monica, CA 90401 Room 121	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA)	(310) 260-1876 (Family Law)	• Walk-in • Monday to Friday • 8:30 am – 11 am
<u>Van Nuys Court East</u> 6230 Sylmar Ave. Van Nuys, CA 91401 Room 212D	Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS)	(818) 374-2208 (General Court Information)	• Walk-in • Monday to Friday • 9 am – 1 pm

2. LEGAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR RESTRAINING ORDER HELP

You may also find help through a local legal aid or other non-profit organization that can provide free services to **domestic violence** victims, regardless of legal status. Please call to see if you qualify for services. Even if these organizations cannot help you, it is important to call and find out what your legal rights and options are.

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT	LANGUAGES
<p>Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles (LAFLA) www.lafla.org</p>	<p>English/Spanish: (800) 399-4529 Please call first Appointment required</p> <p>Chinese: (323) 801-7912 Japanese: (323) 801-7913 Khmer: (562) 304-2523 Korean: (323) 801-7987 Vietnamese: (323) 801-7923</p> <p><i>*LAFLA also has a family law clinic located in the Los Angeles Superior Court Central District Courthouse that can assist with more complicated restraining order cases:</i></p> <p><u>LAFLA Toll Center</u> 111 N. Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 Department 8, Room 245</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walk-in • First come, first served • Monday, Wednesday, Fridays only • 8:30 am to 11:30 am and 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm <p><i>*LAFLA also has free restraining order clinics in the Long Beach and Santa Monica Courthouses (see pages 9-10 of this guide).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Various Asian Languages • Other languages may be available
<p>Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) www.nls-la.org</p>	<p>(800) 433-6251 Please call first Appointment required</p> <p><i>* NLS has free restraining order clinics at the following courthouses: Antelope Valley, Burbank, Pomona, San Fernando, and Van Nuys (see pages 9-10 of this guide).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish • Mandarin • Cantonese • Armenian • Other languages may be available

2. LEGAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS FOR RESTRAINING ORDER HELP
Continued

ORGANIZATION	CONTACT	LANGUAGES
<p>Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) www.apalc.org</p>	<p>English: (213) 977-7500 Please call first Appointment required</p> <p>Chinese: (800) 520-2356 Khmer: (800) 867-3126 Korean: (800) 867-3640 Vietnamese: (800) 267-7395</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Mandarin • Cantonese • Khmer • Korean • Vietnamese • Other languages may be available
<p>Community Legal Services - Compton, Norwalk (Part of the Legal Aid Society of Orange County)</p>	<p>English and other languages: (800) 834-5001 Please call first Appointment required</p> <p><i>*CLS also has a free restraining order clinic in the Compton and Norwalk Courthouses (see pages 9-10 of this guide).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Spanish