

How can I get 'Lawful Permanent Residency' without my partner's help?

- The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) creates two ways for women married to US citizens or lawful permanent residents to get their residency, through 'self petitioning' and 'cancellation of removal'. There are also ways to keep permanent residency.
- Because the law is complicated, you should NOT GO TO THE INS without first consulting an immigration attorney.
- If you do not qualify under VAWA, don't despair. There are other ways you could get your immigration status changed.
- Call the Local Protect Hotline at 513-872-9259 for information about how to get legal help.

Will I be deported if I seek help?

If you are now a U.S. citizen, lawful permanent resident or possess a valid visa, you cannot be deported, unless you entered the United States on fraudulent documents, violated conditions of your visa or have committed certain crimes. If you are undocumented or are unsure about your immigration status, you should seek the assistance of an immigration attorney to see if you can legalize your status. If your partner were to report you to the INS, a lawyer can help delay and/or prevent deportation.

Will my partner be deported if I take action?

Seeking help from shelters or lawyers is unlikely to result in the deportation of your partner. If you contact the police and your partner is convicted of a crime, your partner may be deported, depending on your partner's immigration status and the seriousness of the crime.

If you have an emergency and need help, call the police at:

911

Check list for a safety plan

If possible, take the following items with you when you plan to leave home:

- Identification
- Birth certificate(s)
- Marriage certificate
- Social security card(s)
- Work permits (EAD's)
- Immigration papers
- Passport(s)
- Protection order
- Divorce papers, custody papers
- Health insurance or medical card
- Medications and prescriptions
- Checkbooks, bank books, slips
- Money, credit cards and ATM cards
- Driver's license, car title, registration
- Lease, rental agreement, house deed
- House and car keys
- Address book
- Pets
- Other _____

Remember

You have the right to feel safe in your relationship.
 You are courageous for taking a step forward.
 Don't feel ashamed. You are not alone.
 There is hope, there are options and there is a way out.

Important numbers

24 hour hotline that links caller to shelter services, court advocacy, crisis intervention and support groups.
Interpreters for various languages are available.

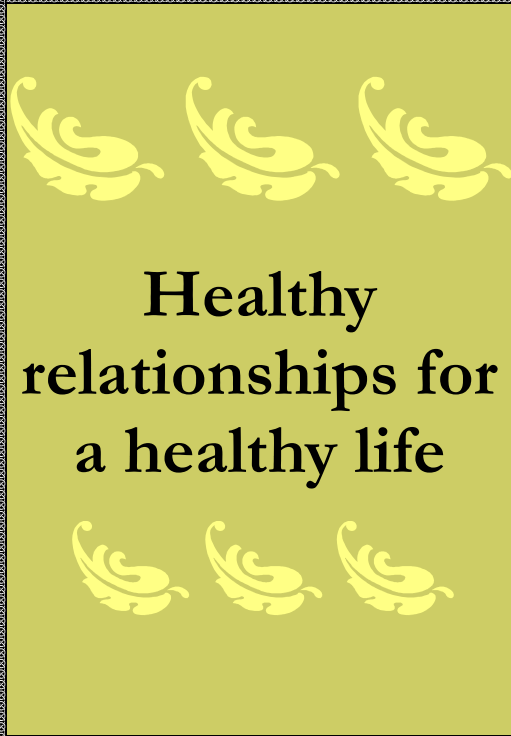
Local Protect Hotline (voice)	513-872-9259
Toll-free (voice)	1-888-872-9259
TTY (for the Deaf)	513-977-5545

**"I do not speak English.
 I need an interpreter for _____ language."**

Regardless of immigration status you have the right:

- Not to be abused
- To expect and demand help
- To court protection
- To call the police
- To obtain a divorce without your husband's consent

"The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication/project/exhibitions are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice or the State of Ohio, Office of Criminal Justice Services."



Healthy relationships for a healthy life

This information is part of the ABAIW-YWCA, Greater Cincinnati.
 This project was supported by Award No. 2002-DG-D02-7347 awarded by the Byrne Memorial Grant Program, Office of Justice Programs through the State of Ohio, Office of Criminal Justice Services.
 Funded by United Way.
 Funded in part by City of Cincinnati.

What is a healthy relationship?

A healthy relationship consists of 2 consenting adults who resolve their differences without emotional, physical or psychological damage to each other.

What are the signs of an unhealthy relationship?

Here are some signs of an unhealthy relationship.

Is your partner:

- extremely jealous?
- discouraging you from speaking to friends or family?
- preventing you from getting a job or learning English?
- controlling all the finances?
- threatening to take away your children or have you deported?
- hitting you or ever threatening to harm you with weapons like guns, knives or other objects?
- forcing you to have sex when you do not want to?
- claiming that the violence is your fault?
- blaming drugs or alcohol for the violent behavior?
- calling you names that are demeaning to you?
- making you feel like you are crazy?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may be in an unhealthy relationship. You are not alone and help is available.

What can I do?

There are shelters, hospitals, police, legal aid and community services available for you. Call the Local Protect Hotline number 513-872-9259 for information. All calls are confidential.

What should I do if I am in danger?

- If an argument is unavoidable, try and have it in an area with an exit, NOT in the bathroom, kitchen or near weapons.
- Practice getting out of your home safely.
- Have a packed bag and keep it in a secret accessible place.
- Keep important numbers and/or a calling card with you at all times.
- Devise a code to use with your children, family and friends when you need police.
- Plan where you will go if you leave home. (Refer to the check list before you leave).
- If the situation is very dangerous use your own instincts to keep yourself safe.

Safety planning at home, on the job and in public.

- Inform neighbors and landlord that you are no longer with the partner and they should call the police if they see the partner near your home.
- At work, decide who you will tell about your situation. This should include office or building security. Provide a picture of your partner if possible.
- Change telephone number. Change/ add locks on your door and windows.
- Practice a safety plan with your children for when you are not with them.
- Have someone escort you to the car, bus or train. Use a variety of routes to go home, if possible.
- Leave money, keys and copies of important documents with someone you trust.
- Open a savings account in your name for financial freedom.

What can I do if my partner is threatening to take away my kids?

- Keep recent photos, passports and birth certificates of the children.
- Get a custody order to prohibit your partner from removing the children from the country. Call the Protect Hotline number 513-872-9259 for information.
- If the children are U.S. citizens, send a copy of the custody order to the embassy of your partner's home country and a copy to the U.S. Department of State to prevent the issuance of passports and visas for the children.
- Give a copy of the custody order to the children's schools and inform them who has permission to pick up the children.

How can I support my family and myself if I leave?

- The law requires that the father of your children support them, even if you are living apart, even if you were never married and without regard to immigration status.
- Some married women may be eligible to receive spousal support or alimony.
- Determine your eligibility for work authorization, Welfare, Medicaid and Public Benefits by consulting an immigration lawyer or Protect Hotline staff in your area.

What can the Protect Hotline staff do for me?

- Provide moral support and a listening ear.
- Work with the police department. Help you file a police report and get a protection order if needed.
- Explain the court system and go to court with you.
- Refer you to legal services.
- Help find a safe place (shelter) for you and your children.

What can the police do for me?

- Respond immediately to a 911 phone call. (Don't hang up the phone until an interpreter comes on the line).
- Take you and your children to a safe place (shelter).
- Get medical assistance if needed.
- Determine if an arrest can be made.

The police generally will not turn in a woman reporting family violence to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS, now known as BCIS).

If the police officer does not speak your language, ask for an interpreter. It is NOT OK to use your abuser as your interpreter.

Ask the police to make an incident report. As soon as you are safe, get a copy of the report.

What is a shelter?

- A shelter is a safe and secret place for you and your children to receive free and confidential services to help move toward an independent lifestyle.

What is a protection order?

- A protection order can prohibit the abuser from coming near, attacking or contacting you, your children or other family members.
- You do not need to be a citizen or a legal resident to get a protection order.
- Protection orders don't last forever- know when yours expires.
- Keep your protection order with you at all times.
- Only a 'Civil protection order' gives temporary custody of your children.