Fact Sheet: Survivor Remedies

Domestic Violence
As defined by the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV), domestic violence is “a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain control or maintain power and control over an intimate partner.”

- Abuse can be physical, emotional, financial, or sexual and acts or threats can be directed at the intimate partner or towards someone or something closely tied to the intimate partner.
- If you feel you are in immediate danger, please call 911.
- For advocate and/or shelter: 24-hour statewide hotline operated by ICADV: 800-332-7385.
- If you are unable to safely make a phone call, text LOVEIS to 22522 or visit thehotline.org

Protective Orders
Note: POs are still being processed by the courts via electronic filing during COVID-19 closures.

In Indiana, a Protective Order is a civil court order that protects a person from someone who has committed domestic or family violence, a sex offense, stalking, or repeated acts of harassment. The person on the other side of the Order (the “Respondent”) must be a current or former spouse, a current or former intimate partner, a person who has a child in common with the Petitioner, or who is related by blood/ adoption/marriage, like a step-parent or foster parent.

- “Domestic or Family Violence” = Attempting to, threatening to, or causing physical harm to another family or household member; placing a family or household member in fear of physical harm; or causing a family or household member to involuntarily engage in sexual activity.
- Examples of “Sex Offense” = Rape, child molesting, child solicitation, child seduction, sexual conduct in the presence of the child, sexual battery, sexual misconduct with a minor.
- “Stalking” = A knowing or intentional course of conduct involving repeated or continuing harassment of another person that would cause a reasonable person to feel terrorized, frightened, intimidated, or threatened and that actually causes the victim to feel the same.

Note: While it is not necessary that a criminal case be initiated for a Protective Order to be requested, a victim of physical or sexual violence should always seek help from the police and the prosecutor.

Protective Order forms and instructions on e-filing can be accessed here: https://bit.ly/3dWp0Ty

Though a Petitioner can pursue a Protective Order on his/her own, we always recommend that you seek the help of an advocate or attorney. Contact ICADV at 800-332-7385 to be connected with an advocate.

U Visa
U Visa is an immigration benefit available to victims of domestic violence and other types of violent crimes. As long as the victim has made a report with law enforcement (usually to the police or by seeking a Protective Order) and they cooperate with the investigation process, then they should be eligible to pursue a U Visa.

VAWA
VAWA is an immigration benefit available to victims of domestic violence whose abuser is their legal spouse and is a US Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident. Unlike the U Visa, a VAWA applicant does not have to make a report to law enforcement.