

PROVIDER GUIDE: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) IN IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE COMMUNITIES

This guide is designed to help health and human service professionals provide support and safety planning for immigrants and refugees experiencing IPV.

OBSTACLES YOUR CLIENT MAY FACE

- Language barriers
- Fear of deportation
- Cultural and religious beliefs
- Lack of family support/isolation
- Unfamiliarity with systems and legal rights
- Economic dependence on the abusive partner
- Fear of losing their children and/or family separation
- Threats of harm to family here and abroad
- Fear/distrust of law enforcement
- Shame due to IPV or sexual violence



THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Police

Your client may fear deportation and be reluctant to contact the police or go to court.

Interpreters

Avoid using interpreters from the same family or community because they may have biases. Use certified, contracted interpreters.

Communities

Family, friends, religious leaders and other members of immigrant communities may pressure survivors to stay in a relationship.

Immigration Legal Services

The immigration legal system is complex. It can take many months to apply for a change in immigration status and see any benefits (e.g. employment authorization).

Identity

Be aware of your own beliefs, values, prejudices, biases and how the survivor may perceive your role as a system partner. Listen to survivors to understand their family history, customs, and current reality.



**FOR FURTHER SUPPORT, CALL THE PHILADELPHIA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HOTLINE: [1-866-723-3014](tel:1-866-723-3014)**

Services are available in any language through Language Line interpretation services.



USEFUL QUESTIONS TO ASK

① Do you want an interpreter?

It's important that survivors are able to explain their situation in their preferred language with a certified interpreter. If an in-person interpreter isn't available, you can use telephonic interpretation. Do not use family members, friends, or children.

② Has anyone threatened to call authorities on you? (e.g. police, immigration, child welfare services, etc.)

Abusive partners often use such threats to gain power and control.

③ Do you have friends, family or a community in the area, and are they supportive of you?

Ask your client about their local support network. Listen openly to their response, as some immigrant survivors face pressure to stay in an abusive relationship due to cultural or religious expectations. Furthermore, they may feel more comfortable seeking resources in their community rather than from other providers, police or the courts.

④ Who would you call if there were an emergency?

Your client may fear deportation and be reluctant to contact the police or file for a Protection From Abuse Order (PFA), fearing that it could jeopardize their immigration status. Work with the client to create a safety plan that truly feels safe for them while recognizing the obstacles your client may face.

⑤ Do they understand their legal rights in the United States?

Let your client know that regardless of immigration status, they have the right to go to court, file for a PFA, file for divorce, and receive child support.

RESOURCES

IPV-RELATED SERVICES

Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline

1-866-723-3014

Confidential help 24/7 with interpretation available.

African Family Health Center (AFAHO)

(215) 546-1232
2420 S. 54th Street, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Services tailored to the needs of African immigrant and refugee survivors of domestic violence or intimate partner violence.

SEAMAAC

(215) 503-7194
1902 S. 8th St.
Philadelphia PA 19148

Services tailored to the needs of Asian immigrant and refugee survivors of domestic violence or intimate partner violence

IMMIGRATION & IPV LEGAL SERVICES

Catholic Social Services

(215) 854-7019
222 North 17th St., Suite 901
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Low-cost immigration legal services.

Esperanza Legal Services

(347) 719-1402
4261 North 5th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19140

Low-cost immigration legal services.

HIAS PA

(215) 832-0900
600 Chestnut Street, Suite 500B
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Free immigration legal services for low-income and at-risk immigrants and refugees.

Nationalities Service Center

(215) 893-8400
1216 Arch St. 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Free immigration legal services and case management for low-income and at-risk immigrants and refugees.

Women Against Abuse Legal Center

(215) 686-7082
100 S. Broad Street, Suite 1500
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Free legal advocacy and representation for relationship violence-related legal matters, including PFA orders, child custody, and child support.

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To suggest revisions for this resource, contact info@sharedsafetyphila.org