

# Everyone has rights

***No one has the right to hurt or beat you. Even if you are undocumented, you have the right to:***

- Seek protection from the police and the courts. (You can get a protection order against your partner)
- Seek help from a domestic violence program
- Seek shelter if you are trying to leave an abusive relationship
- Seek medical services if you are hurt or injured
- Get custody of your children
- Seek immigration relief for battered women

# Call for more information

***If you think you may qualify for the immigration relief outlined in this brochure, call:***

Farmworker Unit  
Legal Services of North Carolina  
**(800) 777-5869** (toll free)  
(English and Spanish)

Immigrant Legal Assistance Project  
**(888) 251-2776** (toll free)  
(English and Spanish)  
Intakes on Tuesdays, 9am to 5pm

Domestic Violence Initiative  
Legal Services of North Carolina  
**(919) 856-2142** (English)

***If you have general questions regarding domestic violence, call:***

National Domestic Violence Hotline  
**(800) 799-SAFE** (7233)  
(English and Spanish)

NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
**(919) 956-9124** (English)

***If you think you or your children are in danger, call:***

**Police - 911**

If the police ask about your immigration status or where you were born, you have the right not to answer.



**I am a battered immigrant woman.**

**I need to leave him, but I fear he will report me to the INS. I don't want to be deported. It feels like he has all the power.**

***What are my rights?***

If your abuser is a US citizen or a legal permanent resident (LPR), you may be able to get a green card (permanent residency) with the help of an attorney.

## Self-Petition

*If your spouse has never filed for your green card, you may be able to apply on your own. To qualify, you must show proof of:*

- marriage to a US citizen or LPR, and if divorced, not more than two years ago
- a good faith marriage (not just for immigration purposes)
- living together with your spouse
- battered or extreme emotional cruelty by your spouse

## Battered Spouse Waiver

*If you have a conditional green card and are waiting for your second interview, you may be able to qualify if you show proof of:*

- conditional legal permanent residency (a green card which will expire in two years)
- a good faith marriage (not just for immigration purposes)
- living together with your spouse
- battery or extreme emotional cruelty by your spouse

If you are a battered immigrant who helped in the investigation and/or prosecution of a criminal activity, you may qualify for the

## Crime Victim Visa

*For this type of visa, you need not be married to a US citizen or legal permanent resident. However, you will need:*

- proof of substantial physical or emotional abuse as the victim of the crime
- to cooperate with the police in the investigation and/or prosecution of the criminal activity
- evidence that the crime occurred in the US

**To help your case, please keep all the following documents in a safe place:**

passports  
green cards  
birth certificates  
marriage certificates

immigration papers  
police reports  
medical reports  
photographs of injuries

family pictures  
property leases  
joint tax returns  
bank books and statements

*Ask your attorney about options if you are a battered woman who is in the process of being deported, or if you think you would be in danger if you returned to your home country.*