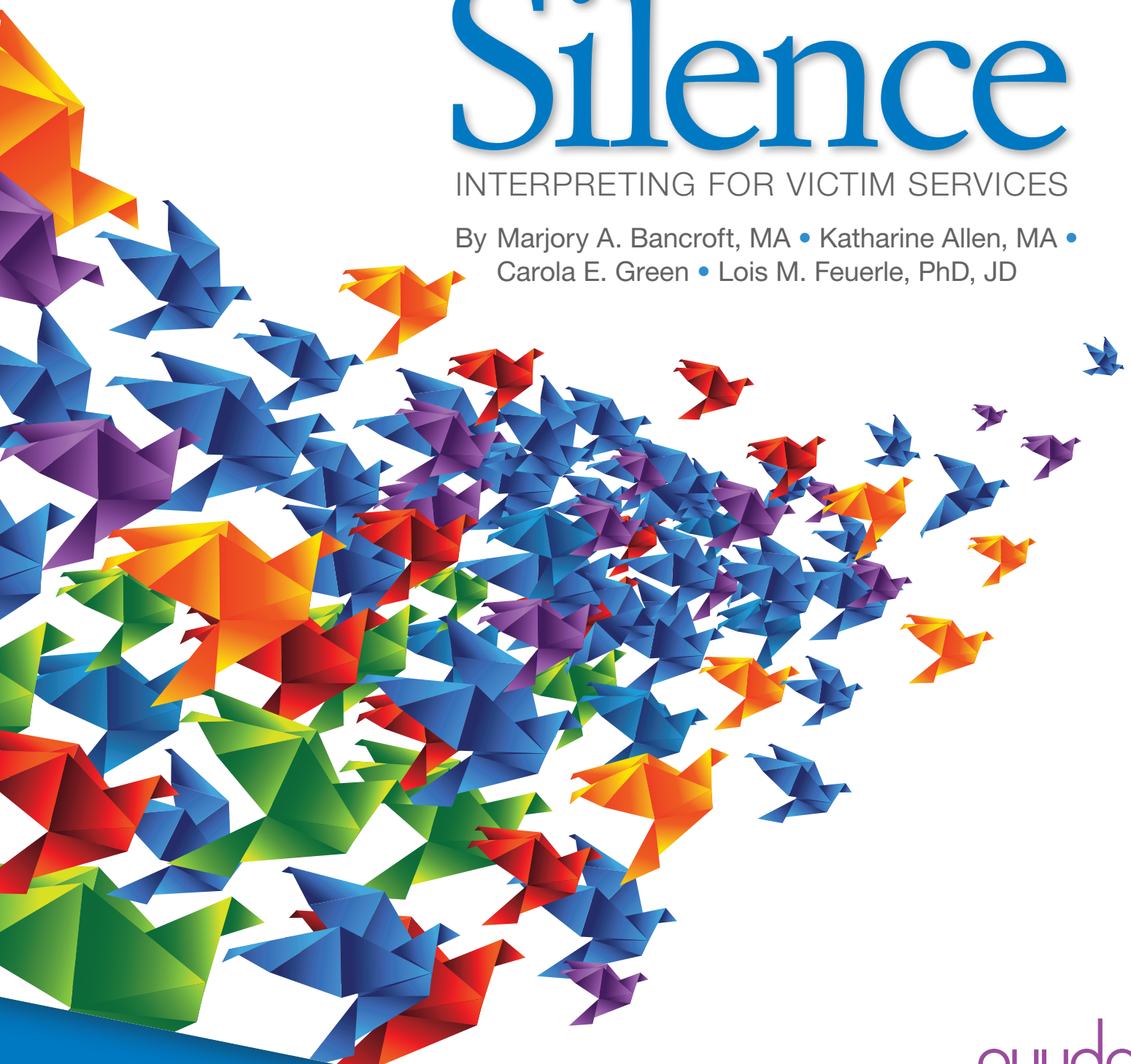


# Breaking Silence

INTERPRETING FOR VICTIM SERVICES

By Marjory A. Bancroft, MA • Katharine Allen, MA •  
Carola E. Green • Lois M. Feuerle, PhD, JD



# BREAKING SILENCE

## Interpreting for Victim Services

### *A Glossary of Victim Services Terminology*

*by*

*Marjory A. Bancroft, MA, Katharine Allen, MA,  
Carola E. Green, and Lois M. Feuerle, JD, PhD*

**A Project of Ayuda**

**Funded by the District of Columbia  
Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants**

This glossary for interpreters was produced by Cross-Cultural Communications, LLC, for Ayuda, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC, under Grant Number 2015-Ayuda-002 awarded by the District of Columbia, Executive Office of the Mayor, Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants.

The opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this training manual are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the District of Columbia, Executive Office of the Mayor, Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, or Ayuda.

For questions about this manual,  
please contact the Language Access Director at Ayuda.

Ayuda  
6925B Willow Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20012  
Phone: (202) 243-7317  
Fax: (202) 387-0324

# A GLOSSARY OF VICTIM SERVICES TERMINOLOGY

## PART 1: TERMS BY CATEGORY

### **CATEGORIES**

Acronyms in Victim Services . . . . .	2
Child Advocacy Services . . . . .	3
Courts and Depositions . . . . .	6
Domestic Violence . . . . .	15
General Legal Services . . . . .	22
Law Enforcement and Crime . . . . .	27
Mental Health . . . . .	32
Sexual Assault . . . . .	36
Victim Services Offices . . . . .	41

## ACRONYMS IN VICTIM SERVICES

<b>ACD</b>	Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal	<b>MPD</b>	Metropolitan Police Department—District of Columbia
<b>ADR</b>	Alternative Dispute Resolution	<b>MSL</b>	Mexican Sign Language
<b>ADA</b>	Assistant District Attorney	<b>MTF</b>	Male to Female (transition)
<b>ASL</b>	American Sign Language	<b>NOVA</b>	National Organization for Victim Assistance
<b>CDI</b>	Certified Deaf Interpreter	<b>NVRDC</b>	Network for Victim Recovery of DC
<b>CPS</b>	Child Protective Services	<b>OCME</b>	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (state/District of Columbia morgue)
<b>CPO</b>	Civil Protection Order	<b>OJP</b>	Office of Justice Programs
<b>CVCP</b>	Crime Victims Compensation Program	<b>OP</b>	Orders of Protection
<b>DA</b>	District Attorney	<b>OVC</b>	Office of Victims of Crime
<b>DIR</b>	Domestic Incident Report	<b>OVSJG</b>	Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants
<b>DOJ</b>	Department of Justice	<b>OVW</b>	Office on Violence against Women
<b>DNA</b>	Deoxyribonucleic Acid	<b>PD</b>	Public Defender or Police Department
<b>DV</b>	Domestic Violence	<b>PERK</b>	Physical Evidence Recovery Kit
<b>DVC</b>	Domestic Violence Court	<b>PO</b>	Protection Order
<b>DVIC</b>	Domestic Violence Intake Center	<b>PSI</b>	Pre-Sentence Investigation
<b>DVIP</b>	Domestic Violence Intervention Program	<b>PTSD</b>	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
<b>DVL</b>	Domestic Violence Liaison	<b>ROR</b>	Released on Own Recognizance
<b>DVPA</b>	Domestic Violence Prevention Act	<b>SA</b>	Sexual Assault
<b>DVSP</b>	Domestic Violence Service Provider	<b>SAFE</b>	Sexual Assault Forensic Exam
<b>EPO</b>	Emergency Protective Order	<b>SAFE</b>	Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner
<b>ETPO</b>	Emergency Temporary Protective Order	<b>SAMSA</b>	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
<b>EPRO</b>	Emergency Protective Restraining Order	<b>SANE</b>	Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
<b>ETPO</b>	Emergency Temporary Protective Order	<b>SBS</b>	Shaken Baby Syndrome
<b>FLSU</b>	Family Liaison Specialists Unit—unit within MPD Victim Services Branch	<b>SSA</b>	State Administering Agency
<b>FOP</b>	Final Order of Protection	<b>SSDI</b>	Social Security Disability Benefits
<b>FTM</b>	Female to Male (transition)	<b>STD</b>	Sexually Transmitted Disease
<b>GAL</b>	Guardian Ad Litem	<b>STI</b>	Sexually Transmitted Infection
<b>ICU</b>	Intensive Care Unit	<b>TG</b>	Transgender
<b>IDV</b>	Integrated Domestic Violence	<b>TPO</b>	Temporary Protection Order
<b>LGBTQ</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning	<b>TRO</b>	Temporary Restraining Order
<b>LCSW</b>	Licensed Certified Social Worker	<b>USAO</b>	United States Attorney's Office
<b>LCSW-C</b>	Licensed Certified Social Worker—Clinical (i.e. a clinician/therapist)	<b>VSU</b>	Victims Specialists Unit—unit within MPD Victim Services Branch
<b>MCVU</b>	Major Case Victims Unit—unit within MPD Victim Services Branch	<b>VOCA</b>	Victims of Crime Act of 1984

# CHILD ADVOCACY SERVICES

## A

---

### **Abuse (verb)**

To insult, hurt, injure, rape and/or molest another person. Such behaviors may include, but are not limited to physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, spiritual abuse and/or verbal abuse.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Attorney for the child**

Formerly called a Law Guardian - A court-appointed attorney who represents the interests of a child in a divorce or custody case.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

## B

---

### **Bullying**

A form of abuse and it is demonstrated through unwanted aggressive behavior towards another individual it includes but is not limited to, hazing, harassment and stalking.

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

## C

---

### **Child**

A person under the age of 18 or as otherwise defined by state law.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Child abuse**

Consists of any act of commission or omission that endangers or impairs a child's physical or emotional health and development. Child abuse includes any damage done to a child which cannot be reasonably explained and which is often represented by an injury or series of injuries appearing to be non-accidental in nature.

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

### **Child abuse charges**

Formal allegation of committing child abuse.

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

### **Child neglect charges**

Formal allegation of committing child neglect.

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

### **Child physical abuse**

Non-accidental injury to a child by a parent or other adult that may include severe beatings, burns, strangulation, or human bites.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Child sexual abuse**

Sexual offense against a child by a parent or other adult. See **Sexual abuse**.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Cyber-bullying**

When a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones.

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

## **E**

---

### **Emotional abuse of a child**

Any attitude or behavior which interferes with a child's mental health or social development. This includes yelling, screaming, name-calling, shaming, negative comparisons to others, telling them they are "bad, no good, worthless" or "a mistake." It also includes the failure to provide the affection and support necessary for the development of a child's emotional, social, physical and intellectual well-being. This includes ignoring, lack of appropriate physical affection (hugs), not saying "I love you," withdrawal of attention, lack of praise and lack of positive reinforcement.

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

## **I**

---

### **Incest**

*Incest as defined by the Survivors of Incest Anonymous World Services Offices:* Incest is any sexual behavior imposed on the child by a family member, including extended family members, such as teachers or clergy. Sexual contacts may include a variety of verbal and/or physical behaviors; penetration is not necessary for the experience to count as incest. *Incest as defined by the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Center:* Incest happens in the family when an adult or older adolescent uses a child or young person for their sexual gratification. It can include fondling, exhibitionism, intercourse, oral or anal sex, masturbation, photographing naked children, or child prostitution. *Incest as defined by Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Incest Survivors:* Incest is an act of power against a child that takes a sexual form. We define incestuous acts to include suggestive or seductive talk or behavior directed at a child; any unwanted invasive touching, including kissing, wrestling and tickling; non-medical enemas; showing a child pornography or nudity; sexual fondling; oral sex; sodomy; and/or intercourse. Incest survivors come from both sexes and all economic and social backgrounds, races, religions nationalities and sexual preferences. *In New York State, Section 255.25 of the Penal Law provides Incest:* A person is guilty of incest when he or she marries or engages in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse with a person whom he or she knows to be related to him or her, either legitimately or out of wedlock, as an ancestor, descendant, brother or sister of either the whole or the half blood, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece. Incest is a class E felony.

*Source: V-Day.org*

## **N**

---

### **Neglect of a child**

Failure to provide for a child's physical needs. This includes lack of supervision, inappropriate housing or shelter, inadequate provision of food and water, inappropriate clothing for season or weather, abandonment, denial of medical care and inadequate hygiene.

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

### **Negligence**

A legal doctrine providing that one may be liable to another if (1) he or she owes a legal duty to the other; (2) he or she materially breaches that duty; (3) the breach is the proximate cause of the others injury; and (4) the other person suffers damages.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**P**

---

**Parental liability**

A legal doctrine that holds parents civilly liable for the torts and crimes of their children.

*U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Physical abuse of a child**

Any non-accidental injury to a child. This includes hitting, kicking, slapping, shaking, burning, pinching, hair pulling, biting, choking, throwing, shoving, whipping, and paddling.

*The National Child Abuse Hotline*

**S**

---

**Sexual abuse of a child**

Any sexual act between an adult and child. This includes fondling, penetration, intercourse, exploitation, pornography, exhibitionism, child prostitution, group sex, oral sex, or forced observation of sexual acts.

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

**Shaken baby syndrome (SBS)**

SBS is the injury to an infant, toddler or young child resulting from being shaken violently. SBS can occur when a child receives as few as three (3) rapid shakes; head impact is not necessary although frequently occurs. SBS injuries can include brain damage, blindness, seizures, speech and learning disorders including mental retardation, cerebral palsy, damage to neck vertebrae and spinal cord resulting in severe motor dysfunction, paralysis and death.

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

**Supervised visitation**

Contact between a noncustodial party and one or more children in the presence of a third person, either paid or unpaid, who is responsible for observing and, to the greatest extent possible, providing a safe environment for those involved.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*



# COURTS AND DEPOSITIONS

## A

---

### **1<sup>st</sup> degree felony**

A First Degree Felony is punishable by 5 years to 99 years or Life and includes such crimes as murder, aggravated robbery, aggravated sexual assault, aggravated kidnapping, high amount of drug cases, and many others.

*Source: AVVO.Com—Research legal advice*

### **2<sup>nd</sup> degree felony**

A Second Degree Felony is punishable by 2 years to 20 years and includes offenses like Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Sexual Assault, and others.

*Source: AVVO.Com—Research legal advice*

### **3<sup>rd</sup> degree felony**

A Third Degree Felony is punishable by 2 years to 20 years and includes offenses like DWI-3rd Offender, Assault-Family Violence (2nd), lower level drug cases, and others.

*Source: AVVO.Com—Research legal advice*

### **4<sup>th</sup> degree felony**

A Fourth Degree Felony is punishable by up to 18 months and monetary fine, depending on state penal codes.

*Source: AVVO.Com—Research legal advice*

### **Acquittal**

In criminal law, a finding of not guilty. In contract law, a release, absolution, or discharge from an obligation, liability, or engagement.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

### **Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal (ACD)**

If the defendant stays out of trouble for a given period of time, the charges are dismissed.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

### **Adjudication**

The act of a court in making an order, judgment, or decree.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

### **Adversarial**

Involving two people or two sides who oppose each other.

*Source: Merriam-Webster.com*

### **Alford plea**

A special type of guilty plea by which a defendant does not admit guilt but concedes that the State has sufficient evidence to convict; normally made to avoid the threat of greater punishment. Source Black's Law Dictionary (1996); North Carolina v. Alford, 400 U.S. 25 (1970).

*National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms citing Black's Law Dictionary (1996); North Carolina v. Alford, 400 U.S. 25 (1970)*

### **Assault**

Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury upon the person of another, when coupled with the present ability to do so, and any intentional display of force such as would give victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**Assault with deadly weapon**

An aggravated unlawful assault in which there is threat to do bodily harm without justification or excuse by use of any instrument calculated to do serious bodily harm or cause death.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**Assault, aggravated**

An assault committed with the intention of committing some additional crime.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**Assault, aggravated**

An attack or attempted attack with a weapon, regardless of whether an injury occurred, and an attack without a weapon when serious injury results. With injury - An attack without a weapon when serious injury results or an attack with a weapon involving any injury. Serious injury includes broken bones, lost teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness, and any unspecified injury requiring two or more days of hospitalization. Threatened with a weapon - Threat or attempted attack by an offender armed with a gun, knife, or other object used as a weapon that does not result in victim injury.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**Assistant District Attorney (ADA)**

The prosecutor.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Attempted perjury**

An endeavor or effort to commit perjury, carries beyond preparation, but lacking execution.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**B**

---

**Burden of proof**

The threshold of evidence that one party must present in order to prevail in his or her case. In criminal cases, the burden of proof is very high: “beyond a reasonable doubt,” or generally 99 percent of the evidence. In civil cases, however, the burden of proof on the victim/plaintiff is “a mere preponderance,” or more than 50 percent of the evidence.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**C**

---

**Charges**

A formal allegation, as a preliminary step in prosecution, that a person has committed a specific offense, which is recorded in a complaint, information or indictment. To charge; To accuse.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**Civil actions**

Lawsuits filed by victims to recover from injuries sustained and damages incurred as a result of the perpetrator’s crime.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Civil conspiracy**

See Aiding and abetting.

*Source: [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Civil contempt**

Judge finds the respondent violated a provision of the TPO/CPO that is civil in nature. Examples include, but are not limited to failure to pay rent to petitioner and/or failure to attend or complete counseling.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Civil Protection Order (CPO)**

A court order that usually requires a respondent to stay away from and have no contact with the petitioner and directs the respondent not to commit any criminal offense against the petitioner. The order can also specify terms of custody, require the respondent to vacate the household and/or order the respondent to relinquish firearms or other property. CPOs are in effect for a period of one year and can be extended or modified by a judge.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Collateral estoppel**

A legal doctrine which provides that, in some cases, the criminal conviction of perpetrators will be considered proof of those perpetrators' legal liability in civil actions brought by the perpetrator's victims.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Collectability**

A general term meaning the extent to which defendants/perpetrators have the financial means to pay judgments from assets on hand, assets reasonably to be expected in the future, or financial assistance from such sources as insurance coverage.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Comparative negligence**

The more prevalent approach to reducing amounts paid to plaintiffs/victims allowing partially negligent plaintiffs/victims to recover damages from defendants/perpetrators, however, reducing the amounts of the award by the applicable percentage of the plaintiff's/victim's own negligence.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Complaint**

The formal written pleading filed in a civil court alleging that the defendant(s) injured the plaintiff(s), and that the defendant(s) should be liable for damages caused.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Conspiracy to commit**

An agreement by two or more persons to commit an unlawful act; in criminal law, conspiracy is a separate offense from the crime that is the object of the conspiracy.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**Contempt**

Violation of one or more terms of a protection order (TPO/CPO) by the respondent.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Contempt hearing**

Hearing to decide a petitioner's motion for civil or criminal contempt. Both sides have the opportunity to present evidence as to whether or not the respondent violated the TPO/CPO.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Continuance**

judge can reschedule the case to a later hearing date; if there is a TPO it can usually be extended until that date. Even if a case is continued, the petitioner must appear at every court date so that the case is not dismissed.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Crime classification**

Victimizations and incidents are classified based upon detailed characteristics of the event provided by the respondent. Neither victims nor interviewers classify crimes at the time of interview. During data processing, a computer program classifies each event into one type of crime, based upon the entries on a number of items on the survey questionnaire. This ensures that similar events will be classified using a standard procedure. The glossary definition for each crime indicates the major characteristics required to be so classified. If an event can be classified as more than one type of crime, a hierarchy is used which classifies the crime according to the most serious event that occurred. The hierarchy is: rape, sexual assault, robbery, assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, theft.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**Criminal action**

Cases in which the state prosecutes perpetrators of criminal acts, committed in violation of the state's laws.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Criminal contempt**

Judge finds the respondent violated a provision of the TPO/CPO that is criminal in nature. Examples include, but are not limited to failing to stay away from the petitioner or another protected party named in the TPO/CPO, contacting the petitioner or another protected party, committing assault, sexual assault, malicious destruction of property or harassment.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Criminal court**

The court determines guilt and punishes offenders; only through criminal prosecution can an offender be sent to jail and only the government may bring a criminal prosecution.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**D**

---

**Defendant**

Any party who is required to answer the complaint of a plaintiff or pursuer in a civil lawsuit before a court, or any party who has been formally charged or accused of violating a criminal statute.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**Defendants**

Parties against whom civil actions are brought.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Depositions**

Pretrial proceedings in which attorneys for parties in a civil case have the opportunity to examine, under oath, the opposing parties and potential witnesses in the case. Depositions are sworn and reduced to writing. The transcripts may be admissible in evidence at trials if the witnesses are no longer available, or for purposes of impeachment.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

## E

---

### **Emergency Temporary Protection Order (ETPO)**

An emergency court order granted when the court is closed (nights, holidays and weekends) and valid only until the next business day the court is open. ETPOs generally order a respondent to stay away from or have no contact with the petitioner and can also direct a person not to commit any criminal offenses against the petitioner. The only way a victim can get an ETPO is to call the police, who then can initiate the process.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Ex parte**

Latin, “for one party.” - A judge renders a decision with only one party being in court. Ex parte can also refer to improper communication with one party without notice to the other.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

## F

---

### **Family court**

A civil court that has authority over child custody, child support, paternity, family offenses, juvenile delinquency, persons in need of supervision (PINS), adoptions, and child abuse and neglect matters.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

### **Felonious assault**

A criminal assault that is classified as a felony and involves the infliction of serious bodily injury by the use of a dangerous weapon.

*Source: <http://research.lawyers.com/glossary/felonious-assault.html>*

### **Felony**

In American law. The term has no very definite or precise meaning, except in some cases where it is defined by statute. For the most part, the state laws, in describing any particular offense, declare whether or not it shall be considered a felony. Apart from this, the word seems merely to imply a crime of a graver or more atrocious nature than those designated as “misdemeanors.” U. S. v. Coppersmith (C. C.) 4 Fed. 205; Bannon v. U. S., 150 U. S. 404, 15 Sup. Ct. 407, 39 L. Ed. 494; Mitchell v. State. 42 Ohio St.3S0; State v. Lincoln, 49 N. Il. 409. The statutes or codes of several of the states define felony as any public offense or conviction of which the offender is liable to be sentenced to death or to imprisonment in a penitentiary or state prison. Pub. St. Mass. 18S2, p. 1290; Code Ala. 1SS0.

*Source: Black’s Law Dictionary Online, [thelawdictionary.org](http://thelawdictionary.org)*

### **Felony**

A crime of a more serious nature than a misdemeanor, usually punishable by imprisonment in a penitentiary for more than a year and/or substantial fines.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

### **Felony**

An offense, as murder or burglary, of graver character than those called misdemeanors, especially those commonly punished in the U.S. by imprisonment for more than a year.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

### **First party action**

Lawsuits brought by victims directly against their perpetrators.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**G**

---

**Guardian ad Litem (GAL)**

A person appointed by the Court in a case to represent the best interests of a child in legal proceedings.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**I**

---

**Injury**

Injury generally refers to a harm suffered, which may be physical or emotional pain and suffering, damage to reputation or dignity, loss of a legal right, breach of contract, or damage to real or personal property. The civil law seeks to compensate victims of wrongful acts, whether they are intentional or unintentional, for the injuries that could reasonably be expected from such acts. Injuries must be proven by the plaintiff and evidence may be introduced to support the amount, if any, of money damages sought. The seriousness of the injury depends on medical evidence, usually proven by expert testimony. The distinction between a minor, serious, and grave injury is not subject to precise definition and varies according to applicable law and subjective interpretations by the finder of fact.

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/i/injury/>*

**Interstate Stalking 18 U.S.C. 2261A**

This law makes it a federal crime to travel across a state line or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, intending to injure or harass another person and then placing that person in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury [defined in 18 U.S.C. 1365(g)(3)] to her or him or an immediate family member (defined in 18 U.S.C. 115).

*Source: V-Day.org*

**J**

---

**Judgments**

The formal recitations of the outcomes of civil cases. They are almost always reduced to writing, and recorded as a part of the file.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**M**

---

**Mandated**

To officially require (something) make (something) mandatory.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Manslaughter, involuntary**

Unlawful killing of another, without malice, when the death is caused by some other unlawful act not usually expected to result in great bodily harm.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**Manslaughter, voluntary**

Unlawful killing of another, without malice, when the act is committed with a sudden extreme emotional impulse.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**Motion**

Request for the court to take some specified action.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Murder**

The unlawful killing of a human being with deliberate intent to kill.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**N**

---

**Non-negligent/voluntary manslaughter**

Intentionally and without legal justification causing the death of another when acting under extreme provocation. The combined category of murder and non-negligent manslaughter excludes involuntary or negligent manslaughter, conspiracies to commit murder, solicitation of murder, and attempted murder.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**O**

---

**Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG)**

When the petitioner comes to the DVIC, the OAG will decide whether it can take the CPO or contempt case. If the OAG does not take the case, the petitioner can represent her/himself, hire a private attorney or find pro bono counsel.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**P**

---

**Perjury**

A false statement given while under oath or in a sworn affidavit.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**Perpetrator**

A person carrying out domestic violence behaviors. See **Abuser** and **Batterer**.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Perpetrators**

Persons who have criminally injured victims.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Plaintiff**

Party bringing civil actions. In the case of victim civil remedies, the victim is the plaintiff.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI)**

An investigation into the history of a person convicted of a crime, to determine whether there are factors that should ameliorate or increase the sentence. Usually handled by Probation.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Pro se**

A person representing her/himself in court without an attorney.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Protection order**

The general term for an order issued by the Court mandating a batterer to not contact, harass or come within a certain distance of the petitioner and/or other persons named in the order.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Provocation**

A legal doctrine that may excuse defendant/perpetrator from the consequences of his/her crime/tort if the plaintiff/victim instigated a confrontation, or otherwise caused or provoked the defendant's actions.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Punitive damages**

Damages awarded to victims against perpetrators, over and above compensatory damages, in order to punish or make an example of perpetrators.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**R**

---

**Released on Own Recognizance (ROR)**

Released from custody after arrest, without having to post bail.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Remedy**

the means by which a court grants relief to a person who has been harmed by another person. Remedies can be civil, such as an order of protection, financial compensation or enforcement of other rights, or criminal, such as incarceration or an order to pay a penalty.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Respondent**

A person against whom a protection order (ETPO/TPO/CPO) has been filed; the person from whom a petitioner is seeking protection.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Restitution**

Court action that requires perpetrators to make financial payments to their victims, usually as a condition of probation or leniency in sentencing.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**S**

---

**Self defense**

The legal doctrine which relieves defendants/perpetrators of liability for torts if they acted in the reasonable belief that they had to use force to defend themselves, or others (loved ones, etc.), from death or great bodily harm.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Status hearing**

Parties appear before a judge, who sets a timeline for how the case will proceed.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*



## T

---

### **Temporary Protection Order (TPO)**

A court order that usually requires a respondent to stay away from and have no contact with the petitioner and directs the respondent not to commit any criminal offenses against the petitioner; the order can also specify issues of custody, require the respondent to vacate the household; and/or relinquish firearms or other property. TPOs are in effect for a period of two weeks but a judge can extend them. To get a TPO you must show you fear immediate danger from your batterer.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **United States Attorney's Office (USAO) (i.e. prosecutor)**

When a police report is filed for a criminal violation, the USAO decides whether to file criminal charges. In criminal contempt, if USAO does not file charges, the petitioner may move forward with the case by filing her/his own motion.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

## A

---

### **Abuse (noun)**

A repetitive pattern of behaviors to maintain power and control over an intimate partner. These are behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. Abuse includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Many of these different forms of abuse can be going on at any one time.

*Source: National Domestic Violence Hotline*

### **Abuser**

A person who uses abusive tactics and behaviors to exert power and control over another person with whom the abuser is in an intimate, dating or family relationship.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Assault**

A cause of action for intentionally putting the victim in fear of a battery, coupled with the apparent ability to commit the battery.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Assumption of risk**

A legal doctrine that may relieve perpetrators of liability for injuries to victims if the victim voluntarily entered into a situation knowing that there was a risk of foreseeable injury.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

## B

---

### **Batterer**

A person who uses coercive and abusive tactics and behaviors to establish and maintain power and control over another person with whom the batterer is in an intimate, dating or family relationship. Such behaviors may include, but are not limited to physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, spiritual abuse and/or verbal abuse.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Batterer's intervention program**

In Virginia, these are programs designed to help people change their abusive behavior. Standards for effective batterer intervention services in order to ensure that the goals of victim safety, offender accountability, and community collaboration are the focus of these services.

Currently, The Coalition for the Treatment of Abusive Behaviors (C-TAB) and The Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association (VCCJA) work collaboratively as a multidisciplinary independent organization to oversee the certification process for batterer intervention programs in Virginia.

*Source: Attorney General of Virginia, [www.Virginia.gov](http://www.Virginia.gov)*

### **Batterer's treatment program**

See Batterer's intervention program.

### **Battery**

The intentional, offensive, unpermitted touching of the victim by the perpetrator.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Burnout**

A state of physical, emotional and mental exhaustion caused by long-term involvement in emotionally demanding situations.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

## **C**

---

### **Case management**

The coordination of services on behalf of an individual by an advocate.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Coercion**

when one person forces or attempts to force another to think or act in a different way. Examples include, but are not limited to threatening to report the victim to Child and Family Services or police, forcing a victim to drop charges against the batterer and/or forcing a victim to participate in or commit illegal activities.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Common partner**

A prior intimate/dating partner of your current intimate/dating partner, or current intimate/dating partner of your former intimate/dating partner (for example the old boyfriend or girlfriend of your current boyfriend or girlfriend).

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Contusion**

An injury in which the skin is not broken, often characterized by ruptured blood vessels and discolorations; a bruise.

*Source: <http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/contusion>*

## **D**

---

### **Dating violence**

Dating violence is defined as violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors · The length of the relationship · The type of relationship · The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

*Source: U.S. Office of Violence Against Women (OVW)*

### **Dating violence**

Domestic violence that occurs between people who are dating. This is the preferred term to use when describing teenage relationships that are abusive.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Diagnostic screening**

When health care providers ask questions about Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) only to patients presenting with risk factors for IPV or signs or symptoms consistent with IPV, not to all patients.

See **Universal screening**.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

### **Domestic Incident Report (DIR)**

Completed by police responding to a domestic incident.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Domestic violence**

Violent acts involving a current or former spouse or domestic partner.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Domestic violence**

A pattern of abusive behavior that is used by an intimate partner to gain or maintain power and control over the other intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

*Source: U.S. Office of Violence Against Women (OVW)*

**Domestic violence (DV)/Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) court resource coordinators**

Resource Coordinators have to be impartial; they refer for services, but are not advocates.

Resource Coordinators have five core responsibilities case identification; service referrals; quality control; supporting compliance reviews and community collaboration.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Domestic violence advocate**

Victim advocacy duties include explaining, supporting, encouraging and coordinating resources to minimize psychological, physical, financial and emotional effects on the victim.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Domestic violence clerk's office**

a walk-in location, Room 4400 of Superior Court, where victims of domestic violence can file for a TPO/CPO or a motion for contempt.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Domestic Violence Court (DV Court)**

A criminal court that handles only domestic violence matters.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Domestic Violence Intake Center (DVIC)**

a walk-in location, Room 4200 of Superior Court or Room 311 of United Medical Center where victims of domestic violence can file for a TPO/CPO, file a motion for contempt, or receive other domestic violence services and referrals.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP)**

A court-ordered 22-week Court Services & Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) class for batterers.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Domestic Violence Liaison (DVL)**

NYS Law and Regulations require local districts to retain or employ trained Domestic Violence Liaisons who are primarily responsible for completing the following job tasks: assess the credibility of the assertion of domestic violence; assess the safety of the victim and the victim's dependents and their need for services and other supports; provide information about domestic violence and the options for protection, services and other supports; inform victim about their rights and responsibilities with respect to waivers of public assistance program requirements; gather facts regarding the extent to which domestic violence is a barrier to meeting public assistance requirements, including employment requirements and the need for waivers of such requirements; determine the need for waivers when compliance with public assistance requirements would place the victim and/or the victim's children at greater risk of harm or make it more difficult to escape

from the abuse, and make recommendations for granting waivers or grant waivers; periodically reassess the individual's domestic violence circumstances and modify, terminate or extend the waiver(s); establish and maintain a list of, at a minimum, available domestic violence services and a relationship with the providers of the services; coordinate activities with other case managers and examiners within the local SSD; facilitate emergency safety planning with victims in a crisis situation, as necessary; and collect and maintain data/record keeping.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

#### **Domestic violence service provider**

A non-profit organization that provides support, counseling and assistance to victims of domestic violence.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

#### **Domestic violence shelter**

Also known as a women's shelter is a building or set of apartments where abused and battered women can go to seek refuge from their abusers. The location of the shelter is kept confidential in order to keep your abuser from finding you. Domestic violence shelters generally have room for both mothers and their children. The shelter will provide for all your basic living needs, including food and childcare. The length of time you can stay at the shelter is limited, but most shelters will also help you find a permanent home, job, and other things you need to start a new life. The shelter should also be able to refer you to other services for abused and battered women in your community, including: Legal help, Counseling, Support groups, Services for your children, Employment programs, Health-related services, Educational opportunities, Financial assistance.

*Source: [http://www.helpguide.org/mental/domestic\\_violence\\_abuse\\_help\\_treatment\\_prevention.htm](http://www.helpguide.org/mental/domestic_violence_abuse_help_treatment_prevention.htm)*

## **E**

---

#### **Economic/financial abuse**

When a batterer uses finances to establish and maintain power and control over a victim. Examples include, but are not limited to, controlling a partner's finances, taking the victim's money without permission, giving the victim an allowance, prohibiting/limiting a victim's access to bank accounts or credit card, denying the victim the right to work and/or sabotaging a victim's credit.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

## **F**

---

#### **Family violence**

Family Violence is classified as a criminal act of assault with regard to married couples or members of the same family. Family Violence can take place in a variety forms, but typically requires the presence of abuse sustained by one individual member of a romantic couple at the hands of the other member of the couple; Family Violence can manifest itself in physical, emotional, sexual, or psychological forms. Family violence can also be grouped with child abuse or acts of violence administered to children in a family setting. Regardless of the classification, all acts of family violence, whether delivered in an emotional, physical or psychological medium, are considered debilitating and in most cases illegal. Contact a family lawyer to find legal protection.

*Source: <http://domestic-violence.laws.com>*

## **I**

---

#### **Insured**

The individual who has contracted to receive insurance coverage from the Insurer whose actions are otherwise covered by an insurance policy.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Insurer**

The business entity which has contracted to provide insurance coverage to the insured.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Intimidation**

When one person uses threats to cause another person fear and/or coerce her/him into doing something. Examples include, but are not limited to making someone afraid by using looks, actions, gestures and/or a loud voice, destroying property, abusing pets and/or displaying weapons.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Intra-family offense**

The legal term in the District of Columbia for an act of domestic violence.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Isolation**

When one person uses friends, family and social networks to establish and maintain power and control over a victim. Examples include, but are not limited to controlling where a victim goes, who s/he talks to, what s/he wears, and/or who s/he sees, limiting involvement in places of worship, PTA and other social networks.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**L**

---

**Lethality assessment**

An analysis done by an advocate or law enforcement officer to determine the level of risk of homicide for a victim of domestic violence based on recent and changing behaviors of the batterer.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**P**

---

**Physical abuse**

When a batterer uses her/his body or other objects to cause harm or injury to establish and maintain power and control over a victim. Examples include, but are not limited to hitting, kicking, biting, pushing, scratching, slapping, strangling, beating, using a weapon against another person, punching, throwing, burning, poisoning, stabbing and shooting.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Power and control wheel**

A tool many advocates use to illustrate abusive tactics and behaviors used by batterers against victims.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Predominant aggressor**

The person who poses the most serious ongoing threat in a domestic violence situation.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Proximate cause**

The “cause in fact” of injury to victims; a “cause” without which the victim’s injuries would not have occurred.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

## S

---

### **Safe housing**

Emergency, transitional or permanent shelter/housing that is confidentially located.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Safety plan**

Guidelines for stalking victims that, if implemented, may reduce the odds of physical or emotional harm from a stalker.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Safety plan**

A plan, verbal or written, a victim of domestic violence creates with an advocate. The plan consists of action steps a victim can take to keep her/his children safe when violence takes place or to stop violence from happening.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Shelter/safe house**

Short- and long-term housing and related support services for victims and families following a victimization.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Spiritual/religious abuse**

When a batterer uses spirituality or religion to establish and maintain power and control over a victim. Examples include, but are not limited to controlling the partner's ability to practice her/his own religion or attend services, forcing the partner to convert or practice another religion against her/his will and/or using the spiritual or religious environment, leader and/or congregation to influence a victim's behavior.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Survivor**

A person who was or is being abused or harmed by another person.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

## T

---

### **Teen dating violence**

A form of abuse exhibited by a dating partner, the abuse can consist of but is not limited to, destructive and aggressive behavior and physical and emotional harm.

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

### **Transitional housing**

Shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children that typically lasts up to two years, between receiving emergency services and finding permanent housing.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

## U

---

### **Uninsured or underinsured motorists**

State law usually makes it compulsory that drivers have enough insurance to cover damages if they, or others defined in the policies, are injured by motorists who have no insurance, or not enough insurance, to cover injuries that they have caused.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Universal screening**

A recommendation from the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) American Medical Association (AMA), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) that health care providers (including doctors, nurses or social workers) ask all female patients about their experiences with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) at every visit, and provide referrals for services as indicated. The New York State Department of Health recommends Universal Screening for all female patients.

See **Diagnostic screening**.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**V**

---

**Verbal abuse**

When a batterer uses words to establish and maintain power and control over a victim. Examples include, but are not limited to the use of language to manipulate, control, ridicule, insult, humiliate, belittle, vilify, and/or show disrespect and disdain to another.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*



# GENERAL LEGAL SERVICES

## A

---

### **18-B Attorney**

An attorney assigned by the court to represent low income people.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

### **Alien**

A foreign national who is not a U.S. citizen.

*Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/other/human-trafficking.html>*

### **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**

Usually refers to mediation (legal definition).

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

### **Ancillary legal services**

Subordinate or aiding services. A legal proceeding that is not the primary dispute but which aids the judgment rendered in or the outcome of the main action. A descriptive term that denotes a legal claim, the existence of which is dependent upon or reasonably linked to a main claim.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

### **Answer**

In pleading. Any pleading setting up matters of fact by way of defense. In chancery pleading, the term denotes a defense in writing, made by a defendant to the allegations contained in a bill or information filed by the plaintiff against him. In pleading, under the Codes of Civil Procedure, the answer is the formal written statement made by a defendant setting forth the grounds of his defense; corresponding to what, in actions under the common-law practice, is called the "plea." In Massachusetts, the term denotes the statement of the matter intended to be relied upon by the defendant in avoidance of the plaintiff's action, taking the place of special pleas in bar, and the general issue, except in real and mixed actions. Pub. St. Mass. 1882, p. 12S7. In matrimonial suits in the (English) probate, divorce, and admiralty division, an answer is the pleading by which the respondent puts forward his defense to the petition. Browne, Div. 223. Under the old admiralty practice in England. the defendant's first pleading was called his "answer." Williams & B. Adm. Jtir. 246. In practice. A reply to interrogatories; an affidavit in answer to interrogatories. The declaration of a fact by a witness after a question has been put, asking for it. As a verb, the word denotes an assumption of liability, as to "answer" for the debt or default of another.

*Source: Black's Law Dictionary Online, [thelawdictionary.org](http://thelawdictionary.org)*

### **Attorney**

A person legally appointed or hired by a respondent or petitioner to represent her/him in legal matters.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

## B

---

### **Blackmail**

Term for extortion and it is a criminal act where a person will attempt to get money from another person by threats.

*Source: Black's Law Dictionary Online, [thelawdictionary.org](http://thelawdictionary.org)*

**Bodily injury**

Any physical or corporeal injury; not necessarily restricted to injury to the trunk or main part of the body as distinguished from the head or limbs. *Quirk v. Siegel-Cooper Co.*, 43 App. Div. 404, 00 N. Y. Supp. 228

*Source: Black's Law Dictionary Online, thelawdictionary.org*

**C**

---

**Causes of action**

The legal basis for a civil lawsuit.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**Criminal justice support/advocacy**

Support, assistance, and advocacy provided to victims at any stage of the criminal justice process, including post sentencing services and support.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**Cross-petitions**

Separate petitions filed by a petitioner and respondent against one another.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**D**

---

**Damages**

Amounts of money awarded to winning parties in civil suits expressed in a judgment.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**Defenses**

Legal doctrines that relieve defendant/perpetrator of liability for having committed a tort.

*Source: U.S. Office Source: for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**Delayed discovery rule**

A legal doctrine that suspends the running of statutes of limitations during periods of time in which the victims did not discover, or by the exercise of reasonable diligence, could not have discovered, the injuries that would lead to their causes of action against the defendant/perpetrator.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**E**

---

**Emergency legal advocacy**

Filing of temporary restraining orders, injunctions and other protective orders, elder abuse ... petitions, and child abuse ... petitions. Does not include criminal prosecution or the employment of attorneys for such nonemergency purposes as custody disputes and civil suits.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**F**

---

**Foreign born**

A person not born in the United States.

*Source: http://www.uscis.gov/*

**Fraud**

A deliberate deception perpetrated for unlawful or unfair gain.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

---

**I**

**Immigrant**

Any person not a citizen of the United States who is residing in the U.S. under legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent residence as an immigrant. Also known as “Permanent Resident Alien,” “Resident Alien Permit Holder,” and “Green Card Holder.”

*Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services*

---

**M**

**Mandated reporter**

New York State recognizes that certain professionals are specially equipped to fulfill the important role of mandated reporter of child abuse or maltreatment. Mandated reporters are required to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment when, in their professional capacity, they are presented with reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

---

**P**

**Paralegal**

A person with legal skills, but who is not an attorney, and who works under the supervision of a lawyer or who is otherwise authorized by law to use those legal skills.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**Petition**

An application asking the court to issue a protection order.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Petitioner**

A person who has filed for a protection order ... seeking protection from a batterer. See **Victim**.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Pro bono**

Short for Latin “pro bono publico” – for the public good. An attorney who will represent a party free of charge.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

---

**S**

**Service of process**

Delivery of legal papers to a respondent notifying the respondent of legal action taken against her/him. Documents must be given either to the respondent personally or to someone living in the respondent’s usual residence. Any person over age 18 can serve the documents as long as s/he is not a party to the case. The judge can also order the police to assist with service and a petitioner can ask the police to assist with service when s/he files for a protection order. Whoever serves the papers must complete and sign a Return of Service form indicating the time and place the respondent was served and file this form in the clerk’s office.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Settlements**

Agreements among the parties to lawsuits to end the suits without trial; usually the plaintiff agrees to drop the lawsuit for a fixed sum of monetary damages paid by the defendant.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Statute of limitations**

Periods of time, set by law, after which civil actions cannot be brought.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Substantiated**

A claim or assertion supported by objective data or other proof of evidence.

*Source: Black's Law Dictionary Online, [thelawdictionary.org](http://thelawdictionary.org)*

**T**

---

**T petitions**

Process to request a T Visa be awarded.

*Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/other/human-trafficking.html>*

**Third party actions**

Lawsuits brought against persons whose negligence or gross negligence has facilitated the commission of a tort by a defendant.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Tolling of statutes of limitations**

The running of statutes of limitations is suspended.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Torts**

Civil or private wrongs (as opposed to criminal offenses) committed by perpetrators against victims.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**T-Visa**

Type of Visa granted to a Victim of Human Trafficking. This status allows victims of human trafficking to remain in the United States to assist in investigations or prosecutions of human trafficking violators.

*Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/other/human-trafficking.html>*

**U**

---

**U petitions**

Process to request a U Visa be awarded.

*Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/other/human-trafficking.html>*

**Undocumented immigrant**

The term 'undocumented immigrant' refer to foreign nationals residing in the U.S. without legal immigration status. It includes persons who entered the U.S. without inspection and proper permission from the U.S. government, and those who entered with a legal visa that is no longer valid. Undocumented immigrants are also known as unauthorized or illegal immigrants, subject to deportation if apprehended.

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/u/undocumented-immigrant/>*

**Unfounded report**

Means that no credible evidence was found.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**U-Visa**

Type of Visa granted to a Victim of Criminal Activity. Victims must have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse due to the criminal activity and possess information concerning that criminal activity. Law enforcement authorities must also certify that the victim has been, is being, or is likely to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity.

*Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/other/human-trafficking.html>*

**W**

---

**Witness room**

A place designated for witnesses.

*Source: Authors*

# LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIME

## A

---

### **Abduction**

The taking by force or strong persuasion of a wife, husband, child or other person.  
A criminal offense.

*Source: Black's Law Dictionary Online, [thelawdictionary.org](http://thelawdictionary.org)*

### **Abscond**

To go in a secretive manner out of the jurisdiction of the courts, or to lie concealed, in order to avoid their process.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Aggravated assault**

Unlawful, intentional causing of serious bodily injury with or without a deadly weapon, or unlawful, intentional attempting or threatening of serious bodily injury or death with a deadly or dangerous weapon.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Aiding and abetting**

Similar to civil conspiracy, when someone, not the actual perpetrator, so significantly contributes to the criminal operation as to be considered liable for their actions.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Arson**

Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling, house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, or personal property of another.

*Source: Victim Services Offices*

### **Assault/battery**

As defined by the U.S. Department of Justice Behaviors that threaten, attempt, or actually inflict physical harm, ranging from slapping and hitting to using a gun.

*Source: V-Day.org*

## C

---

### **Chain of custody**

An accounting for the whereabouts of the tangible evidence from the moment it is received in custody until it is offered in evidence in court.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

### **Corpse**

A dead body especially of a human being.

*Source: Merriam-Webster.com*

## D

---

### **Decedent**

A deceased person; one who has lately died.

*Source: Black's Law Dictionary Online, [thelawdictionary.org](http://thelawdictionary.org)*

**Dual arrest**

When a police officer arrests both parties in a domestic violence situation because the officer is unable to determine the predominant aggressor or believes both parties have committed an Intra-family offense.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**DUI/DWI crash**

Accident involving one or more motor vehicles in which at least one driver was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs (DUI) or was legally intoxicated (DWI) at the time of the crash.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

---

**E**

**Extortion**

The act of obtaining the property of another person through wrongful use of actual or threatened force, violence, or fear.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

---

**F**

**False imprisonment**

The unlawful restraint by one person of another person's physical liberty.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

---

**H**

**Hostage**

An innocent person held captive by one who threatens to kill or harm him if his demands are not met. A person who is given into the possession of the enemy, in time of war, his freedom (or life) to stand as security for the performance of some contract or promise made by the belligerent power giving the hostage with the other.

*Source: Black's Law Dictionary, 5th Edition, p. 664*

**Human trafficking (sex trafficking)**

Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

---

**I**

**Identity theft**

A crime in which an imposter obtains key pieces of personal information, such as Social Security or driver's license numbers, to impersonate someone else.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Illegal**

Against, or not authorized by law; unlawful.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**K**

---

**Kidnapping**

The taking or detaining of a person against his or her will and without lawful authority.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**M**

---

**Morgue**

A place where the bodies of dead persons are kept temporarily pending identification or release for burial or autopsy.

*Source: Merriam-Webster.com*

**O**

---

**Obstruction of justice**

Obstruction of justice is an attempt to interfere with the administration of the courts, the judicial system or law enforcement officers. It may include tampering with or intimidating, hiding evidence or interfering with an arrest. It is something a person does to impede the administration of a court process or proper discharge of a legal duty. Interference may be with the work of police, investigators, regulatory agencies, prosecutors, or other (usually government) officials. Often, no actual investigation or substantiated suspicion of a specific incident need exist to support a charge of obstruction of justice. Such activity is a crime.

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/o/obstruction-of-justice/>*

**P**

---

**Prostitute slang terms**

Call girl, clandestinas, courtesan, escort, gigolo, harlot, hooker, lady of the night, sex worker, street walker, strumpet, whore.

*Source: <http://prostitution.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000124>*

**Prostitution**

Generally means the commission by a person of any natural or unnatural sexual act, deviate sexual intercourse, or sexual contact for monetary consideration or other thing of value.

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/p/prostitution/>*

**Prostitution slang terms**

Assignation, hustle, pander.

*Source: <http://prostitution.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000124>*

**R**

---

**Remains**

A dead body.

*Source: Merriam-Webster.com*

**Robbery**

Taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*



## S

---

### Solicitation to commit

A person is guilty of solicitation to commit a crime if, with the purpose of promoting or facilitating its commission, he commands, encourages or requests another person to engage in specific conduct which would constitute such crime or an attempt to commit such crime or which would establish his complicity in its commission or attempted commission. It is immaterial that the actor fails to communicate with the person he solicits to commit a crime if his conduct was designed to effect such a communication. The crime of criminal solicitation is the actual soliciting, or seeking to engage another to commit a crime, not the subsequent commission of a crime. Therefore, a defendant can be convicted of soliciting, even though the person refuses and the solicited crime is never perpetrated, as long as the intent that that crime be committed is present.

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/c/criminal-solicitation/>*

### Stalking

Stalking can be defined as a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.

*Source: U.S. Office of Violence Against Women (OVW)*

### Stalking

Any unwanted contact between two people that directly or indirectly communicates a threat or places the victim in fear.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

## T

---

### Terrorism

According to 6 USCS § 101, the term terrorism is “any activity that--(A) involves an act that--(i) is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources; and (ii) is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State or other subdivision of the United States; and (B) appears to be intended--(i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping.”

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/t/terrorism>*

### Terrorism

Use of violence or intimidation to coerce a government or civilian population to further political or social objectives.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### Threats

An expression that demonstrates the intention of one person to inflict pain or injury on another person. Examples include, but are not limited to verbal threats such as threats to leave, harm, commit suicide or physical threats, such as a raised hand, fist or gesture.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### Torture

Torture is punishment inflicted in the form of physical or psychological pain inflicted on supposed criminals as a means of intimidation, deterrent [sic] or punishment, or to induce them to confess their crimes, and to reveal their associates. Torture is a serious violation of human rights. The United States prohibits torture and self-incrimination through the U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment and the Eighth Amendment, which expressly forbids the use of “cruel and unusual punishments.”

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/t/torture/>*

## U

---

### Unlawful criminal restraint

Unlawful restraint. (a) Offense defined.--A person commits an offense if he knowingly: (1) restrains another unlawfully in circumstances exposing him to risk of serious bodily injury; or (2) holds another in a condition of involuntary servitude. (b) Grading.-- (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), an offense under subsection (a) is a misdemeanor of the first degree. (2) If the victim of the offense is an individual under 18 years of age, an offense under subsection (a) is a felony of the second degree.

*Source: Statute 2902, PA Constitution*

## W

---

### White-collar crime

Nonviolent crime for financial gain committed by means of deception by persons with special technical and professional knowledge of business or government.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### Witness tampering

Excerpt from 18 U.S. Code § 1512 - Tampering with a witness, victim, or an informant: Whoever intentionally harasses another person and thereby hinders, delays, prevents, or dissuades any person from — **(1)** attending or testifying in an official proceeding; **(2)** reporting to a law enforcement officer or judge of the United States the commission or possible commission of a Federal offense or a violation of conditions of probation supervised release, parole, or release pending judicial proceedings; **(3)** arresting or seeking the arrest of another person in connection with a Federal offense; or **(4)** causing a criminal prosecution, or a parole or probation revocation proceeding, to be sought or instituted, or assisting in such prosecution or proceeding; or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both. **(e)** In a prosecution for an offense under this section, it is an affirmative defense, as to which the defendant has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence, that the conduct consisted solely of lawful conduct and that the defendant's sole intention was to encourage, induce, or cause the other person to testify truthfully.

*Source: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1512>*

### Wrongful death

The civil action for the killing of one human by another, without justification or excuse.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

# MENTAL HEALTH

## C

---

### **Clinician**

A licensed or certified mental or behavioral health professional such as a psychologist, psychiatrist, licensed clinical social worker (LCSW-C) or a licensed professional counselor (LPC).

*Source: Authors*

### **Competency**

Mental capacity of a person, especially with regard to his or her ability to stand trial and to assist counsel in his or her defense.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

## E

---

### **Emotional/psychological abuse**

Examples include, but are not limited to putting the victim down or making the victim feel bad about her/himself, calling the victim names, playing mind games, making the victim think s/he is crazy, making the victim feel guilty and/or humiliating the victim. when a batterer uses emotions, self esteem and/or a person's mental state to establish and maintain power and control over a victim.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Empathy**

When one person identifies with or experiences the feelings or thoughts of another.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

## F

---

### **Feeling blue**

English idiom meaning that a person is feeling unwell; mainly associated with depression or unhappiness.

*Source: Authors*

### **Flashbacks**

According to 10 CFR 712.3 [Title 10 Energy; Chapter III Department of Energy; Part 712 Human Reliability Program; Subpart A Establishment of and Procedures for the Human Reliability Program; General Provisions], flashback means “an involuntary, spontaneous recurrence of some aspect of a hallucinatory experience or perceptual distortion that occurs long after taking the hallucinogen that produced the original effect; also referred to as hallucinogen persisting perception disorder.”

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/f/flashback-human-reliability-program/>*

## G

---

### **Group treatment**

Coordination and provision of supportive group activities, which include self-help, peer, and social support.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**L****Licensed Certified Social Worker–Clinical (LCSW-C) (i.e. therapist)**

A social worker trained in psychotherapy who helps individuals deal with a variety of mental health and daily living problems to improve overall functioning. A social worker usually has a master's degree in social work and has studied sociology, growth and development, mental health theory and practice, human behavior/social environment, psychology, research methods.

*Source: <http://www.medterms.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=15160>*

**P****Post-traumatic growth**

Concept that refers to the positive change that survivors can experience as a result of having been through a major life crisis or traumatic event.

*Source: <http://ptgi.uncc.edu/what-is-ptg/>*

**Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**

A mental health condition that's triggered by a terrifying event — either experiencing it or witnessing it. Symptoms may include flashbacks, nightmares and severe anxiety, as well as uncontrollable thoughts about the event.

*Source: Mayo Clinic*

**Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**

An anxiety disorder in which symptoms develop following a psychologically distressing event that is outside the normal range of human experiences (military combat, sexual assault, natural disasters, severe auto accidents). The essential features of PTSD include increased arousal, re-experiencing of a traumatic event, and avoidance of stimuli associated with the traumatic event. The symptoms include continued flashbacks, nightmares, and intense distress when exposed to an object or situation that is related to the traumatic event.

*Source: <http://www.findcounseling.com/glossary/ptsd-post-traumatic-stress-disorders.html>*

**Psychological assessment (evaluation)**

Psychological assessment is a process of testing that uses a combination of techniques to help arrive at some hypotheses about a person and their behavior, personality and capabilities. Psychological assessment is also referred to as psychological testing, or performing a psychological battery on a person. Psychological testing is nearly always performed by a licensed psychologist, or a psychology trainee (such as an intern). Psychologists are the only profession that is expertly trained to perform and interpret psychological tests.

*Source: <http://psychcentral.com/lib/what-is-psychological-assessment/0005890>*

**R****Recovery**

A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

*Source: <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/PEP12-RECDEF/PEP12-RECDEF.pdf>*

**Resilience**

The “power to cope with adversity and adapt to challenges or change.” It is the mix of traits and resources we have that allow us to move past the traumatic event and come out the other end wiser and stronger.

*Source: [www.victimsofcrime.org/docs/2006%20Kit/resilience-page.pdf](http://www.victimsofcrime.org/docs/2006%20Kit/resilience-page.pdf)*

## S

---

### **Secondary trauma**

A risk we incur when we engage compassionately or empathically with a traumatized adult or child.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Self care**

The ability to maintain physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual health in times of stress.

*Source: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA)*

*<http://beta.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/podcasts-selfcare-dbhresponders-presentation.pdf>*

### **Stress**

A state of mental or emotional strain or tension resulting from adverse or demanding circumstances.

*Source: Oxford dictionaries*

## T

---

### **Therapy**

Intensive professional, psychological, psychiatric, or other counseling-related treatment for individuals, couples, and family members to provide emotional support in crisis arising from the occurrence of crime. Includes the evaluation of mental health needs and the delivery of psychotherapy.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Trauma-informed services**

A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for healing; recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in staff, clients, and others involved with the system; and responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, and settings.

*Source: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), <http://www.samhsa.gov/nctic/trauma-interventions>*

### **Trigger (noun)**

Something that sets off a memory tape or flashback transporting the person back to the event of her/his original trauma. Triggers are very personal; different things trigger different people.

*Source: <http://psychcentral.com/lib/what-is-a-trigger/0001414>*

### **Trigger (verb)**

Reaction to a flashback with an emotional intensity similar to that at the time of the trauma.

A person's triggers are activated through one or more of the five senses: sight, sound, touch, smell and taste.

*Source: <http://psychcentral.com/lib/what-is-a-trigger/0001414>*

## V

---

### **Vicarious trauma**

The impact of exposure to extreme events experienced by another person resulting in the listener feeling overwhelmed by the trauma or triggering the listener's own past trauma(s).

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Vicarious trauma/secondary trauma**

A buildup of exposure to clients' trauma.

*Source: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA)*

*<http://beta.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/podcasts-selfcare-dbhresponders-presentation.pdf>*

**Visualization**

Formation of mental visual images.

*Source: Merriam-Webster.com*

**W**

---

**Wellness**

Wellness is an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life. "...a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." - The World Health Organization. "a conscious, self-directed and evolving process of achieving full potential." - The National Wellness Institute. Wellness is more than being free from illness, it is a dynamic process of change and growth.

*Source: <http://shcs.ucdavis.edu/wellness/#.VBYL4GfwwDc>*

# SEXUAL ASSAULT

## A

---

### **Abrasion**

The rubbing or scraping of the surface layer of cells or tissue from an area of the skin or mucous membrane; also : a place so abraded.

*Source: Merriam-Webster.com*

### **Abusive sexual contact**

Are less serious victimizations, and include: intentional touching, either directly or through clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person; incidents in which the intent was to sexually exploit (rather than to harm or debilitate).

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

### **Adult molested as child**

Adult age 18 or older who was sexually abused as a child.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Adult sexual assault**

Sexual offense—including rape, incest, fondling, exhibitionism, or pornography—of an adult age 18 or older.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

## B

---

### **Blitz sexual assault**

The perpetrator rapidly and brutally assaults the victim with no prior contact. Blitz assaults usually occur at night in a public place.

*Source: Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, [rainn.org](http://rainn.org)*

## C

---

### **Contact sexual assault**

The suspect contacts the victim and tries to gain her or his trust and confidence before assaulting her or him. Contact perpetrators pick their victims in bars, lure them into their cars, or otherwise try to coerce the victim into a situation of sexual assault.

*Source: Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, [rainn.org](http://rainn.org)*

## D

---

### **DNA**

The abbreviation for deoxyribonucleic acid, which is the genetic material present in the cells of all living organisms. DNA is the fundamental building block for an individual's entire genetic makeup. A person's DNA is the same in every cell (with a nucleus). DNA is contained in blood, semen, skin cells, tissue, organs, muscle, brain cells, bone, teeth, hair, saliva, mucus, perspiration, fingernails, urine, feces, etc.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

## F

---

### Female genital mutilation (FGM)

The term FGM covers three main varieties of genital mutilation 1. “Sunna” circumcision, meaning “traditional,” consists of the removal of the prepuce and/or the tip of the clitoris. 2. Clitoridectomy (also referred to as excision) consists of the removal of the entire clitoris (both prepuce and glans) and the removal of the adjacent labia. 3. Infibulation (also referred to as pharaonic circumcision), is the most extreme form, consisting of the removal of the clitoris, the adjacent labia (majora and minora), and the joining of the scraped sides of the vulva across the vagina, where they are secured with thorns or sewn with catgut or thread. A small opening is kept to allow passage of urine and menstrual blood. An infibulated woman must be cut open to allow intercourse on the wedding night and is closed again afterwards to secure fidelity to the husband. The World Health Organization has classified FGM into four types Type I - Excision of the prepuce, with or without excision of part or all of the clitoris. Type II - Excision of the clitoris with partial or total excision of the labia minora. Type III - Excision of part or all of the external genitalia and stitching/narrowing of the vaginal opening (infibulation). Type IV - Unclassified which includes pricking, piercing or incising of the clitoris and/or labia; stretching of the clitoris and/or labia; cauterization by burning of the clitoris and surrounding tissue. FGM is currently illegal in most countries. The United Nations, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization have considered FGM to be a violation of Human Rights and have made recommendations to eradicate this practice.

*Source: V-Day.org*

### Forensic sexual assault exam

The exam will most likely begin with the examiner obtaining a complete and thorough medical history from the victim. The medical forensic exam also involves a head to toe physical examination, which includes the genital area. This may also include: Collection of blood, urine, hair and other body secretion samples. Photo documentation. Collection of the victim’s clothing, especially undergarments. Collection of any possible physical evidence that may have transferred onto the victim from the rape scene. Once the examination is completed and all specimens are collected, they are carefully packaged and stored to assure that they are not contaminated. They are maintained under chain of custody until further action is taken.

*Source: <https://www.rainn.org/get-information/sexual-assault-recovery/rape-kit>*

## H

---

### Head-to-toe exam

A detailed examination and assessment of the entire body (including an internal examination). This may include collection of blood, urine, hair and other body secretion samples, photo documentation of injuries (such as bruises, cuts and scraped skin), collection of clothing (especially undergarments).

*Source: <https://www.rainn.org/get-information/aftermath-of-sexual-assault/preserving-and-collecting-forensic-evidence>*

### Home invasion sexual assault

When a stranger breaks into the victim’s home to commit the assault.

*Source: Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, rainn.org*



## P

---

### Physical Evidence Recovery Kits (PERK) (also known as rape kits)

A sexual assault evidence collection kit affords the opportunity to collect any DNA that may have been left by the suspect. The kit is filled with tools that may be used by the examiner for evidence collection during the forensic medical exam. The contents of the evidence collection kit vary by state and jurisdiction. They may include: Instructions, Bags and sheets for evidence collection, Swabs, Comb, Envelopes, Blood collection devices, Documentation forms.

*Source: <https://www.rainn.org/get-information/sexual-assault-recovery/rape-kit>*

## R

---

### Rape

Forced sexual intercourse including both psychological coercion as well as physical force. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal or oral penetration by the offender (s). This category also includes incidents where the penetration is from a foreign object such as a bottle. Includes attempted rapes, male as well as female victims, and both heterosexual and homosexual rape. Attempted rape includes verbal threats of rape.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

### Rape

“Rape” and “sexual assault” are terms used interchangeably to describe crimes that involve unwanted and illegal sexual acts. The legal definitions of rape and sexual assault vary from state to state. Most commonly, a rape involves the use or threat of force to penetrate a victim’s vagina, mouth, or anus. A sexual assault involves the use or threat of force but may not involve penetration. Fondling someone’s breasts or genitals without consent is an example of sexual assault.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [https://www.ncjrs.gov/ovc\\_archives/reports/help\\_series/pdf/txt/sexualassaultvictimization.txt](https://www.ncjrs.gov/ovc_archives/reports/help_series/pdf/txt/sexualassaultvictimization.txt)*

### Rape kit

See Physical evidence recovery kits.

## S

---

### Sexual abuse

When a batterer uses sexual acts to establish and maintain power and control over a victim without her/his consent. Examples include, but are not limited to making the victim do sexual things against her/his will, sexual assault, treating the victim like a sex object, forcing sex after violence and/or forcing the victim to watch pornography.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### Sexual assault

Sexual assault can be defined as any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs by force or without consent of the recipient of the unwanted sexual activity. Falling under the definition of sexual assault is sexual activity such as forced sexual intercourse, sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling, and attempted rape. It includes sexual acts against people who are unable to consent either due to age or lack of capacity.

*Source: U.S. Office of Violence Against Women (OVW)*

**Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE)**

The combination of healthcare and evidence collection available to patients upon disclosure of sexual assault. Many jurisdictions have their own protocols guiding this process.

*Source: [http://www.aequitasresource.org/Prosecutor\\_Reference\\_Medical\\_Evidence.pdf](http://www.aequitasresource.org/Prosecutor_Reference_Medical_Evidence.pdf)*

**Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)**

A registered nurse who has specialized education and training to provide targeted health care to, and evidence collection for, patients presenting after sexual assault. The International Association of Forensic Nursing (IAFN) is the professional organization representing SANEs: [www.iafn.org](http://www.iafn.org). Some jurisdictions also refer to as SAFEs: Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners.

*Source: [http://www.aequitasresource.org/Prosecutor\\_Reference\\_Medical\\_Evidence.pdf](http://www.aequitasresource.org/Prosecutor_Reference_Medical_Evidence.pdf)*

**Sexual coercion**

Action that lies on the 'continuum' of sexually aggressive behavior. It can vary from being egged on and persuaded, to being forced to have contact. It can be verbal and emotional, in the form of statements that make you feel pressure, guilt, or shame. You can also be made to feel forced through more subtle actions.

*Source: National Domestic Violence Hotline*

**Sexual exploitation**

A "pattern of activity involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a minor" is defined as "any combination of two or more separate instances of the sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a minor by the defendant, whether or not the abuse or exploitation (A) occurred during the course of the offense; (B) involved the same minor; or (C) resulted in a conviction for such conduct." United States v. Dury, 2009 U.S. App. LEXIS 15304 (4th Cir. N.C. July 10, 2009).

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/s/sexual-abuse-or-exploitation-of-a-minor/>*

**Sexual harassment**

*Sexual Harassment as defined by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)*

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that are connected to decisions about employment or that create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment constitute sexual harassment. These behaviors may include, but are not limited to

- Unwanted sexual advances (even where there may have been a prior consensual relationship)
- Subtle or overt pressure for sexual favors
- Sexual jokes Innuendos
- Suggestive, insulting or obscene comments or gestures
- Repeated advances or propositions
- Verbal abuse of a sexual nature
- Graphic comments about an individual's body, sexual prowess or sexual deficiencies
- Leering, whistling, touching, pinching in a suggestive or sexual manner
- Coerced sexual acts
- Display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures in the workplace
- Other physical, verbal, or visual conduct of a sexual nature.

*Source: V-Day.org*

**Sexual offense**

Forcible rape, attempted rape, statutory rape, sexual harassment, prostitution, or other unlawful sexual contact and other unlawful behavior intended to result in sexual gratification or profit from sexual activity.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Sodomy**

Oral or anal copulation between humans, or between humans or animals.

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**T**

---

**Traumatic fistula**

An abnormal opening between the reproductive tract of a woman or girl and one or more body cavities or surfaces, caused by sexual violence, usually but not always in conflict and post-conflict settings.

*Source: Acquire Project, June 2006, "Traumatic Gynecologic Fistula: A Consequence of Sexual Violence in Conflict Settings, A report of a meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Sept. 6-8 2005."*

# VICTIM SERVICES OFFICES

## A

---

### **Advocate (in the victim services context, not the generic term)**

A trained professional or volunteer working for a non-profit or government-based domestic violence or victim-witness advocate program.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Answer**

Formal written responses to the defendants/perpetrators file in response to plaintiff's complaints. These pleadings may deny some or all of the allegations; they may raise defenses such as self-defense or assumption of risk, or they may allege that even if all of the plaintiff's allegations are true, there is no liability. These pleadings are usually accompanied by legal memoranda and briefs. The names of the pleadings vary from jurisdiction. "Demurrers," "motions for summary judgment," "motions to dismiss," and "answers" are all descriptions of a responsive pleading.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Arson**

Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling, house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, or personal property of another.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Assistance in filing compensation claims**

Making victims aware of the availability of crime victim compensation, ... helping victims complete required forms, and gathering needed documentation. May also include follow-up contact with the victim compensation agency on behalf of the victim.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Automobile insurance**

Insurance policies that cover injuries "arising out of the use, operation, or maintenance" of the vehicle.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

## C

---

### **Case management**

A traditional term for all the activities which a physician or other health care professional normally performs to insure the coordination of the medical services required by a patient. It also, when used in connection with managed care, covers all the activities of evaluating the patient, planning treatment, referral, and follow-up so that care is continuous and comprehensive, and payment for the care is obtained. (From Slee & Slee, *Health Care Terms*, 2nd ed).

*Source: U.S. National Library of Medicine*

### **Case manager**

Case management is a collaborative process that assesses, plans, implements, coordinates, monitors, and evaluates the options and services required to meet the client's health and human service needs. It is characterized by advocacy, communication, and resource management and promotes quality and cost-effective interventions and outcomes.

*Source: Commission for Case Manager Certification, <http://ccmcertification.org/about-us/about-case-management/definition-and-philosophy-case-management>*

### **Caseworker**

Someone employed to provide social services (especially to the disadvantaged).

*Source: Princeton University "About WordNet." WordNet. Princeton University. 2010.  
<<http://wordnet.princeton.edu>>*

### **Compensation**

Monetary reparations made to crime victims by a state or a governmental entity to recover "out-of-pocket" expenses incurred as a result of a crime.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Compensatory damages**

Damages paid to compensate victims for losses caused by the torts of the perpetrator. Such losses include out-of-pocket expenses; loss of income; expenses such as medical bills, therapy, and funeral costs; loss of present and future earning capacity; conscious pain and suffering; financial support; and consortium, the loss of the affection and society of loved ones.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Crime Victims Compensation program (CVC)**

A government fund established to assist qualifying victims of violent crime and their families with crime-related expenses, including, but not limited to costs related to counseling, funeral and burial, medical and mental health, emergency/temporary shelter and other costs as permitted by statute.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Crisis counseling**

In-person crisis intervention, emotional support, and guidance and counseling provided by advocates, counselors, mental health professionals, or peers. Such counseling may occur at the scene of a crime or immediately after a crime or be provided on an ongoing basis.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Crisis hotline counseling**

Operation of a 24-hour telephone service, 7 days a week, which provides counseling, guidance, emotional support, and information and referral.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

## **E**

---

### **Elder abuse**

Elder abuse is generally defined to include physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, abandonment, and self-neglect. Some definitions also refer to the failure to take reasonable steps to prevent harm caused by self-neglect. Every state has an adult protective services law with definitions, and many states have other relevant civil or criminal laws. Definitions vary from law to law and state to state. Elder abuse typically is characterized by (a) intentional or negligent action that (b) causes harm, serious risk of harm, or distress to (c) vulnerable older persons. Some definitions of abuse also require a relationship of trust between the older person and the abuser, while others restrict the term to "vulnerable adults or elders."

*Source: <http://www.eldersandcourts.org/Elder-Abuse/Basics.aspx>*

**Emergency/temporary shelter**

Immediate, confidential and safe housing for victims of domestic violence who are fleeing abuse; can be through a domestic violence program or at an undisclosed hotel.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Emergency financial assistance**

Cash outlays for such needs as transportation, food, clothing, and emergency housing.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**F**

---

**Financial qualification form**

Form or document providing financial information and history to determine qualifications to receive services.

*Source: District of Columbia Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, <http://ovsjg.dc.gov/service/financial-assistance-victims>*

**Follow-up contact**

In-person contacts, telephone contacts, and written communications with victims to offer emotional support, provide empathetic listening, and check on a victim's progress.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**G**

---

**Gang violence**

Criminal acts committed by a group of three or more individuals who regularly engage in criminal activity and identify themselves with a common name or sign.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Gender-based violence**

This strategy defines "gender-based violence" as violence that is directed at an individual based on his or her biological sex, gender identity, or perceived adherence to socially defined norms of masculinity and femininity. It includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse; threats; coercion; arbitrary deprivation of liberty; and economic deprivation, whether occurring in public or private life. Gender-based violence can include female infanticide; child sexual abuse; sex trafficking and forced labor; sexual coercion and abuse; neglect; domestic violence; elder abuse; and harmful traditional practices such as early and forced marriage, "honor" killings, and female genital mutilation/cutting.

*Source: USAID.gov adapted from Gender-based Violence and HIV: A Program Guide for Integrating Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response in PEPFAR Programs*

**H**

---

**Hate crime**

A hate crime is a traditional offense like murder, arson, or vandalism with an added element of bias. For the purposes of collecting statistics, Congress has defined a hate crime as a "criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic origin or sexual orientation."

*Source: FBI.gov*

**Honor killing**

'Honour killing' is an ancient practice in which men kill female relatives in the name of family 'honour' for forced or suspected sexual activity outside marriage, even when they have been victims of rape.

*Source: UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/newsline/00pr17.htm>*

### **Hotline**

A free 24 hour / 7 day a week phone number answered by advocates who offer assistance to victims of domestic violence. Assistance may include shelter, legal services and/or safety planning.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

---

## **I**

### **Information and referral (in-person)**

In-person contact with crime victim to identify available services and support.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Information and referral (telephone)**

Telephone contact with crime victim to identify available services and support.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Involuntary servitude**

Involuntary servitude refers to being forced through coercion to work for another. The term is sometimes equated with slavery, however, it does not necessarily imply the complete lack of personal freedom that accompanies slavery. Involuntary servitude of individuals is illegal in the U.S., except when in the form of punishment for a crime. The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides that “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/i/involuntary-servitude/>*

---

## **O**

### **Office for Victims of Crimes (OVC)**

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), one of the seven components within the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), administers the Crime Victims Fund set up by the 1984 Victims of Crime Act.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.OVC.org](http://www.OVC.org)*

### **Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) (District of Columbia)**

The [District of Columbia] Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) was established by Mayor’s Order 2004-119, on July 19, 2004. OVS is responsible for coordinating and supporting victim services within the District by working with DC government agencies and community-based organizations to develop, expand, and improve services that are provided to victims of violent crime. OVS also provides information and recommendations to the Mayor regarding the needs of victims and best practices for meeting those needs.

*Source: District of Columbia Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, <http://ovsjg.dc.gov/>*

---

## **P**

### **Peonage**

The act of holding people against their will to pay off a debt. A victim’s initial agreement to travel or perform the labor does not allow an employer to later restrict that person’s freedom or to use force or threats to obtain repayment.

*Source: <http://www.dol.gov/wb/media/reports/trafficking.htm>*

**Personal advocacy**

Assisting victims in securing rights, remedies, and services from other agencies; locating emergency financial assistance and intervening with employers, creditors, and others on behalf of the victim; assisting in filing for losses covered by public and private insurer programs, including workers' compensation, unemployment benefits, and public assistance; and accompanying the victim to the hospital.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Program manager**

The person in charge of Program Management: Program management is the active process of managing multiple global work streams or projects which need to meet or exceed business goals according to a pre-determined methodology or life-cycle. Program management focuses on tighter integration, closely knit communications and more control over program resources and priorities. [International Association of Project and Program Management -2003].

*Source: <http://www.iappm.org/concepts.htm>*

**Q**

---

**Quiet room**

(In the hospital) A place where rape victims wait for the nurse and advocate.

*Source: Authors*

**R****Repeat victimization**

Refers to the repeated criminal victimization of a person, household, place, business, vehicle or other target however defined.

*Source: <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-978.019.5396607/obo-978.019.5396607-0119.xml>*

**Revictimization**

See Repeat victimization.

**S**

---

**State Administering Agency (SAA)**

State or territorial entity receiving victim assistance program funds directly from OVC.

*Source: District of Columbia Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, <http://ovsjg.dc.gov/>*

**Survivor of homicide (homicide survivor)**

Family member or loved one of a murder victim.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*



## Survivors

Individuals who have been raped, sexually assaulted or abused. Now read what the U.S. White House says about both these terms and see if you agree with your interpretations. The terms “survivor” and “victim” are both used to describe individuals who have been raped or sexually assaulted. Many of these individuals and the advocates who work with them have come to prefer “survivor,” as they regard the term as more empowering. The term “victim,” however, is still in widespread use in research studies and in the criminal justice context. In this report, the terms are used interchangeably and always with respect for those who have suffered from these crimes. The White House Council on Women and Girls (2014 p. 8) The term “victim” has legal implications within the criminal justice process and generally means an individual who suffered harm as a result of criminal conduct. “Victims” also have particular rights within the criminal justice process. Federal law enforcement agencies often use the term “victim” as part of their official duties. “Survivor” is a term used by many in the services field to recognize the strength it takes to continue on a journey toward healing in the aftermath of a traumatic experience. President’s Interagency Task Force (2013, p. 8).

*Source: Adapted from U.S. White House definition*

## T

---

### Transportation

Transport service either to or from a victim service agency.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### Trauma

Individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual’s functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

*Source: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) [www.samhsa.gov/traumajustice/traumadefinition/definition.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/traumajustice/traumadefinition/definition.aspx)*

### T-Visa

T Visa: T visas may be available to victims of severe forms of trafficking who have complied with any reasonable requests for assistance in the investigation or prosecution of acts of trafficking. However, minors under the age of 15 do not have to comply with such requests in order to be eligible for a T visa. In addition, a victim of a severe form of trafficking is eligible to receive a T visa only if he or she is physically present in the United States, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or at a port of entry on account of such trafficking, and if he or she would suffer extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm upon removal.

*Source: <http://www.dol.gov/wb/media/reports/trafficking.htm>*

## V

---

### Victim

A person who is abused, harmed or killed by another person. See **Survivor(s)**.

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### Victim

The recipient of a criminal act, usually used in relation to personal crimes, but also applicable to households.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**Victim advocates**

A professional who has received special training in how to aid and support crime and intimate partner abuse victims in obtaining services in medical, legal and social service settings. Advocates may provide information, emotional support, help in filling out forms, accompany the victim to court, interviews, medical exams, etc., help find alternative housing, help prepare safety plans, among other things.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Victim compensation**

Payment or reparations made to a crime victim.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Victim of crime**

Person who has suffered physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm as a result of the commission of a crime.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Victim services**

According to 42 USCS § 13925 [Title 42. The Public Health And Welfare; Chapter 136 Violent Crime Control And Law Enforcement Violence Against Women], the term “victim services” or “victim service provider” means a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that assists domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victims, including rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, faith-based organizations, and other organizations, with a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

*Source: [www.uslegal.com](http://www.uslegal.com)*

**Victim services**

Those efforts that (1) respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; (2) assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after a victimization; (3) assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and (4) provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security such as boarding-up broken windows and replacing or repairing locks.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, <http://www.ovc.gov/voca/vaguide.htm>*

**Victimization**

A crime as it affects one individual person or household. For personal crimes, the number of victimizations is equal to the number of victims involved. The number of victimizations may be greater than the number of incidents because more than one person may be victimized during an incident. Each crime against a household is assumed to involve a single victim, the affected household.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**Victimization rate**

Number of victimizations per 1,000 persons or households that occurred during the year.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**Victimize**

To commit a crime against a person or household.

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**Victims**

Persons who have been injured by the criminal acts of perpetrators.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Victims of crime compensation office**

Office handling payment or reparations made to a crime victim.

*Source: Authors*

**Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)**

1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to help victims and victim service providers with program funding in accordance with OVC's Program Plan for the fiscal year.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.OVC.org](http://www.OVC.org)*

**Victims with disabilities**

Victims of crime who have a physical or mental disability.

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

---

**W**

**Waiver**

A temporary delay from participating in certain temporary (cash) assistance program requirements at social services. If you are a victim of domestic violence and participating in those requirements puts you and/or your children at further risk of harm, or make it more difficult to escape the abuse, the Domestic Violence Liaison can grant you a waiver from certain program requirements that apply. When a waiver is granted for a specific program requirement, a victim of domestic violence can still receive TA benefits while not complying with that requirement. The waiver will expire when the case is closed, so provide all documentation and don't miss appointments.

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Wraparound services**

Wraparound services are community-based interventions that emphasize the strengths of individuals, children and families and coordinate the delivery of highly individualized services to address their needs and achieve positive outcomes in their lives.

*Source: Adapted from CA Welfare and Institutions Code §18251(d)*

# A GLOSSARY OF VICTIM SERVICES TERMINOLOGY

## PART 2: TERMS IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

## A

---

### **18-B Attorney**

An attorney assigned by the court to represent low income people.

#### **General Legal Services**

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

### **1st degree felony**

A First Degree Felony is punishable by 5 years to 99 years or Life and includes such crimes as murder, aggravated robbery, aggravated sexual assault, aggravated kidnapping, high amount of drug cases, and many others.

#### **Courts and Depositions**

*Source: AVVO.Com—Research legal advice*

### **2nd degree felony**

A Second Degree Felony is punishable by 2 years to 20 years and includes offenses like Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Sexual Assault, and others.

#### **Courts and Depositions**

*Source: AVVO.Com—Research legal advice*

### **3rd degree felony\***

A Third Degree Felony is punishable by 2 years to 20 years and includes offenses like DWI-3rd Offender, Assault-Family Violence (2nd), lower level drug cases, and others.

#### **Courts and Depositions**

*Source: AVVO.Com—Research legal advice*

### **4th degree felony**

A Fourth Degree Felony is punishable by up to 18 months and monetary fine, depending on state penal codes.

#### **Courts and Depositions**

*Source: AVVO.Com—Research legal advice*

### **Abduction**

The taking by force or strong persuasion of a wife, husband, child or other person.

A criminal offense.

#### **Law Enforcement and Crime**

*Source: Black's Law Dictionary Online, thelawdictionary.org*

### **Abrasion**

The rubbing or scraping of the surface layer of cells or tissue from an area of the skin or mucous membrane; also : a place so abraded.

#### **Sexual Assault**

*Source: Merriam-Webster.com*

### **Abscond**

To go in a secretive manner out of the jurisdiction of the courts, or to lie concealed, in order to avoid their process.

#### **Law Enforcement and Crime**

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**Abuse (noun)**

A repetitive pattern of behaviors to maintain power and control over an intimate partner. These are behaviors that physically harm, arouse fear, prevent a partner from doing what they wish or force them to behave in ways they do not want. Abuse includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation. Many of these different forms of abuse can be going on at any one time.

**Domestic Violence**

*Source: National Domestic Violence Hotline*

**Abuse (verb)**

To insult, hurt, injure, rape and/or molest another person. Such behaviors may include, but are not limited to physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, spiritual abuse and/or verbal abuse.

**Child Advocacy Services**

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Abuser**

A person who uses abusive tactics and behaviors to exert power and control over another person with whom the abuser is in an intimate, dating or family relationship.

**Domestic Violence**

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Abusive sexual contact**

Are less serious victimizations, and include: intentional touching, either directly or through clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks of any person; incidents in which the intent was to sexually exploit (rather than to harm or debilitate).

**Sexual Assault**

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**Acquittal**

In criminal law, a finding of not guilty. In contract law, a release, absolution, or discharge from an obligation, liability, or engagement.

**Courts and Depositions**

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal (ACD)**

If the defendant stays out of trouble for a given period of time, the charges are dismissed.

**Courts and Depositions**

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Adjudication**

The act of a court in making an order, judgment, or decree.

**Courts and Depositions**

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**Adult molested as child**

Adult age 18 or older who was sexually abused as a child.

**Sexual Assault**

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Adult sexual assault**

Sexual offense—including rape, incest, fondling, exhibitionism, or pornography—of an adult age 18 or older.

**Sexual Assault**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Adversarial**

Involving two people or two sides who oppose each other.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: Merriam-Webster.com

**Advocate (in the victim services context, not the generic term)**

A trained professional or volunteer working for a non-profit or government-based domestic violence or victim-witness advocate program.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Aggravated assault**

Unlawful, intentional causing of serious bodily injury with or without a deadly weapon, or unlawful, intentional attempting or threatening of serious bodily injury or death with a deadly or dangerous weapon.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Aiding and abetting**

Similar to civil conspiracy, when someone, not the actual perpetrator, so significantly contributes to the criminal operation as to be considered liable for their actions.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Alford plea**

A special type of guilty plea by which a defendant does not admit guilt but concedes that the State has sufficient evidence to convict; normally made to avoid the threat of greater punishment. Source Black's Law Dictionary (1996); North Carolina v. Alford, 400 U.S. 25 (1970).

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms citing Black's Law Dictionary (1996); North Carolina v. Alford, 400 U.S. 25 (1970)

**Alien**

A foreign national who is not a U.S. citizen.

**General Legal Services**

Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/other/human-trafficking.html>

**Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**

Usually refers to mediation (legal definition).

**General Legal Services**

Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)

**Ancillary legal services**

Subordinate or aiding services. A legal proceeding that is not the primary dispute but which aids the judgment rendered in or the outcome of the main action. A descriptive term that denotes a legal claim, the existence of which is dependent upon or reasonably linked to a main claim.

**General Legal Services**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**Answer**

In pleading. Any pleading setting up matters of fact by way of defense. In chancery pleading, the term denotes a defense in writing, made by a defendant to the allegations contained in a bill or information filed by the plaintiff against him. In pleading, under the Codes of Civil Procedure, the answer is the formal written statement made by a defendant setting forth the grounds of his defense; corresponding to what, in actions under the common-law practice, is called the "plea." In Massachusetts, the term denotes the statement of the matter intended to be relied upon by the defendant in avoidance of the plaintiff's action, taking the place of special pleas in bar, and the general issue, except in real and mixed actions. Pub. St. Mass. 1882, p. 12S7. In matrimonial suits in the (English) probate, divorce, and admiralty division, an answer is the pleading by which the respondent puts forward his defense to the petition. Browne, Div. 223. Under the old admiralty practice in England. the defendant's first pleading was called his "answer." Williams & B. Adm. Jtir. 246. In practice. A reply to interrogatories; an affidavit in answer to interrogatories. The declaration of a fact by a witness after a question has been put, asking for it. As a verb, the word denotes an assumption of liability, as to "answer" for the debt or default of another.

**General Legal Services**

Source: Black's Law Dictionary Online, [thelawdictionary.org](http://thelawdictionary.org)

**Answer**

Formal written responses to the defendants/perpetrators file in response to plaintiff's complaints. These pleadings may deny some or all of the allegations; they may raise defenses such as self-defense or assumption of risk, or they may allege that even if all of the plaintiff's allegations are true, there is no liability. These pleadings are usually accompanied by legal memoranda and briefs. The names of the pleadings vary from jurisdiction. "Demurrers," "motions for summary judgment," "motions to dismiss," and "answers" are all descriptions of a responsive pleading.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Arson**

Any willful or malicious burning or attempt to burn, with or without intent to defraud, a dwelling, house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, or personal property of another.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Assault**

Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury upon the person of another, when coupled with the present ability to do so, and any intentional display of force such as would give victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms



**Assault**

A cause of action for intentionally putting the victim in fear of a battery, coupled with the apparent ability to commit the battery.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Assault with deadly weapon**

An aggravated unlawful assault in which there is threat to do bodily harm without justification or excuse by use of any instrument calculated to do serious bodily harm or cause death.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**Assault, aggravated**

An assault committed with the intention of committing some additional crime.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**Assault, aggravated**

An attack or attempted attack with a weapon, regardless of whether an injury occurred, and an attack without a weapon when serious injury results. With injury - An attack without a weapon when serious injury results or an attack with a weapon involving any injury. Serious injury includes broken bones, lost teeth, internal injuries, loss of consciousness, and any unspecified injury requiring two or more days of hospitalization. Threatened with a weapon - Threat or attempted attack by an offender armed with a gun, knife, or other object used as a weapon that does not result in victim injury.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions

**Assistance in filing compensation claims**

Making victims aware of the availability of crime victim compensation, ... helping victims complete required forms, and gathering needed documentation. May also include follow-up contact with the victim compensation agency on behalf of the victim.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Assistant District Attorney (ADA)**

The prosecutor.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)

**Assumption of risk**

A legal doctrine that may relieve perpetrators of liability for injuries to victims if the victim voluntarily entered into a situation knowing that there was a risk of foreseeable injury.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Attempted perjury**

An endeavor or effort to commit perjury, carries beyond preparation, but lacking execution.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**Attorney**

A person legally appointed or hired by a respondent or petitioner to represent her/him in legal matters.

**General Legal Services**

Source: *DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Attorney for the child**

Formerly called a Law Guardian – A court-appointed attorney who represents the interests of a child in a divorce or custody case.

**Child Advocacy Services**

Source: *New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Automobile insurance**

Insurance policies that cover injuries “arising out of the use, operation, or maintenance” of the vehicle.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**B**

---

**Batterer**

A person who uses coercive and abusive tactics and behaviors to establish and maintain power and control over another person with whom the batterer is in an intimate, dating or family relationship. Such behaviors may include, but are not limited to physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial abuse, spiritual abuse and/or verbal abuse.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: *DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Batterer’s intervention program**

In Virginia, these are programs designed to help people change their abusive behavior. Standards for effective batterer intervention services in order to ensure that the goals of victim safety, offender accountability, and community collaboration are the focus of these services.

Currently, The Coalition for the Treatment of Abusive Behaviors (C-TAB) and The Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association (VCCJA) work collaboratively as a multidisciplinary independent organization to oversee the certification process for batterer intervention programs in Virginia.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: *Attorney General of Virginia, www.virginia.gov*

**Batterer’s treatment program**

See **Batterer’s intervention program**.

**Domestic Violence****Battery**

The intentional, offensive, unpermitted touching of the victim by the perpetrator.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

### **Blackmail**

Term for extortion and it is a criminal act where a person will attempt to get money from another person by threats.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: *Black's Law Dictionary Online, thelawdictionary.org*

### **Blitz sexual assault**

The perpetrator rapidly and brutally assaults the victim with no prior contact. Blitz assaults usually occur at night in a public place.

#### **Sexual Assault**

Source: *Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, rainn.org*

### **Bodily injury**

Any physical or corporeal injury; not necessarily restricted to injury to the trunk or main part of the body as distinguished from the head or limbs. *Quirk v. Siegel-Cooper Co.*, 43 App. Div. 404, 00 N. Y. Supp. 228.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: *Black's Law Dictionary Online, thelawdictionary.org*

### **Bullying**

A form of abuse and it is demonstrated through unwanted aggressive behavior towards another individual it includes but is not limited to, hazing, harassment and stalking.

#### **Child Advocacy Services**

Source: *The National Child Abuse Hotline*

### **Burden of proof**

The threshold of evidence that one party must present in order to prevail in his or her case. In criminal cases, the burden of proof is very high: "beyond a reasonable doubt," or generally 99 percent of the evidence. In civil cases, however, the burden of proof on the victim/plaintiff is "a mere preponderance," or more than 50 percent of the evidence.

#### **Courts and Depositions**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

### **Burnout**

A state of physical, emotional and mental exhaustion caused by long-term involvement in emotionally demanding situations.

#### **Domestic Violence**

Source: *DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

## **C**

---

### **Case management**

The coordination of services on behalf of an individual by an advocate.

#### **Domestic Violence**

Source: *DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Case management**

A traditional term for all the activities which a physician or other health care professional normally performs to insure the coordination of the medical services required by a patient. It also, when used in connection with managed care, covers all the activities of evaluating the patient, planning treatment, referral, and follow-up so that care is continuous and comprehensive, and payment for the care is obtained. (From Slee & Slee, Health Care Terms, 2nd ed).

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. National Library of Medicine

**Case manager**

Case management is a collaborative process that assesses, plans, implements, coordinates, monitors, and evaluates the options and services required to meet the client's health and human service needs. It is characterized by advocacy, communication, and resource management and promotes quality and cost-effective interventions and outcomes.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: Commission for Case Manager Certification, <http://ccmcertification.org/about-us/about-case-management/definition-and-philosophy-case-management>

**Caseworker**

Someone employed to provide social services (especially to the disadvantaged).

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: Princeton University "About WordNet." WordNet. Princeton University. 2010. <http://wordnet.princeton.edu>

**Causes of action**

The legal basis for a civil lawsuit.

**General Legal Services**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Chain of custody**

An accounting for the whereabouts of the tangible evidence from the moment it is received in custody until it is offered in evidence in court.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**Charges**

A formal allegation, as a preliminary step in prosecution, that a person has committed a specific offense, which is recorded in a complaint, information or indictment. To charge; To accuse.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**Child**

A person under the age of 18 or as otherwise defined by state law.

**Child Advocacy Services**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Child abuse**

Consists of any act of commission or omission that endangers or impairs a child's physical or emotional health and development. Child abuse includes any damage done to a child which cannot be reasonably explained and which is often represented by an injury or series of injuries appearing to be non-accidental in nature.

**Child Advocacy Services**

Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline

**Child abuse charges**

Formal allegation of committing child abuse.

**Child Advocacy Services**

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

**Child neglect charges**

Formal allegation of committing child neglect.

**Child Advocacy Services**

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

**Child physical abuse**

Non-accidental injury to a child by a parent or other adult that may include severe beatings, burns, strangulation, or human bites.

**Child Advocacy Services**

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Child sexual abuse**

Sexual offense against a child by a parent or other adult. See **Sexual abuse**.

**Child Advocacy Services**

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Civil actions**

Lawsuits filed by victims to recover from injuries sustained and damages incurred as a result of the perpetrator's crime.

**Courts and Depositions**

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Civil conspiracy**

See **Aiding and abetting**.

**Courts and Depositions**

**Civil contempt**

Judge finds the respondent violated a provision of the TPO/CPO that is civil in nature. Examples include, but are not limited to failure to pay rent to petitioner and/or failure to attend or complete counseling.

**Courts and Depositions**

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Civil protection order (CPO)**

A court order that usually requires a respondent to stay away from and have no contact with the petitioner and directs the respondent not to commit any criminal offense against the petitioner. The order can also specify terms of custody, require the respondent to vacate the household and/or order the respondent to relinquish firearms or other property. CPOs are in effect for a period of one year and can be extended or modified by a judge.

**Courts and Depositions**

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Clinician**

A licensed or certified mental or behavioral health professional such as a psychologist, psychiatrist, licensed clinical social worker (LCSW-C) or a licensed professional counselor (LPC).

**Mental Health**

*Source: Authors*

**Coercion**

when one person forces or attempts to force another to think or act in a different way. Examples include, but are not limited to threatening to report the victim to Child and Family Services or police, forcing a victim to drop charges against the batterer and/or forcing a victim to participate in or commit illegal activities.

**Domestic Violence**

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Collateral estoppel**

A legal doctrine which provides that, in some cases, the criminal conviction of perpetrators will be considered proof of those perpetrators' legal liability in civil actions brought by the perpetrator's victims.

**Courts and Depositions**

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Collectability**

A general term meaning the extent to which defendants/perpetrators have the financial means to pay judgments from assets on hand, assets reasonably to be expected in the future, or financial assistance from such sources as insurance coverage.

**Courts and Depositions**

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Common partner**

A prior intimate/dating partner of your current intimate/dating partner, or current intimate/dating partner of your former intimate/dating partner (for example the old boyfriend or girlfriend of your current boyfriend or girlfriend).

**Domestic Violence**

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Comparative negligence**

The more prevalent approach to reducing amounts paid to plaintiffs/victims allowing partially negligent plaintiffs/victims to recover damages from defendants/perpetrators, however, reducing the amounts of the award by the applicable percentage of the plaintiff's/victim's own negligence.

**Courts and Depositions**

*U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Compensation**

Monetary reparations made to crime victims by a state or a governmental entity to recover "out-of-pocket" expenses incurred as a result of a crime.

**Victim Services Offices**

*U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Compensatory damages**

Damages paid to compensate victims for losses caused by the torts of the perpetrator. Such losses include out-of-pocket expenses; loss of income; expenses such as medical bills, therapy, and funeral costs; loss of present and future earning capacity; conscious pain and suffering; financial support; and consortium, the loss of the affection and society of loved ones.

**Victim Services Offices**

*U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Competency**

Mental capacity of a person, especially with regard to his or her ability to stand trial and to assist counsel in his or her defense.

**Mental Health**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**Complaint**

The formal written pleading filed in a civil court alleging that the defendant(s) injured the plaintiff(s), and that the defendant(s) should be liable for damages caused.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Conspiracy to commit**

An agreement by two or more persons to commit an unlawful act; in criminal law, conspiracy is a separate offense from the crime that is the object of the conspiracy.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**Contact sexual assault**

The suspect contacts the victim and tries to gain her or his trust and confidence before assaulting her or him. Contact perpetrators pick their victims in bars, lure them into their cars, or otherwise try to coerce the victim into a situation of sexual assault.

**Sexual Assault**

Source: Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, [rainn.org](http://rainn.org)

**Contempt**

Violation of one or more terms of a protection order (TPO/CPO) by the respondent.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Contempt hearing**

Hearing to decide a petitioner's motion for civil or criminal contempt. Both sides have the opportunity to present evidence as to whether or not the respondent violated the TPO/CPO.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Continuance**

judge can reschedule the case to a later hearing date; if there is a TPO it can usually be extended until that date. Even if a case is continued, the petitioner must appear at every court date so that the case is not dismissed.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Contusion**

An injury in which the skin is not broken, often characterized by ruptured blood vessels and discolorations; a bruise.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: <http://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/contusion>

**Corpse**

A dead body especially of a human being.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: Merriam-Webster.com

**Crime classification**

Victimizations and incidents are classified based upon detailed characteristics of the event provided by the respondent. Neither victims nor interviewers classify crimes at the time of interview. During data processing, a computer program classifies each event into one type of crime, based upon the entries on a number of items on the survey questionnaire. This ensures that similar events will be classified using a standard procedure. The glossary definition for each crime indicates the major characteristics required to be so classified. If an event can be classified as more than one type of crime, a hierarchy is used which classifies the crime according to the most serious event that occurred. The hierarchy is: rape, sexual assault, robbery, assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, theft.

***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**Crime Victims Compensation program (CVC)**

A government fund established to assist qualifying victims of violent crime and their families with crime-related expenses, including, but not limited to costs related to counseling, funeral and burial, medical and mental health, emergency/temporary shelter and other costs as permitted by statute.

***Victim Services Offices***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Criminal action**

Cases in which the state prosecutes perpetrators of criminal acts, committed in violation of the state's laws.

***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Criminal contempt**

Judge finds the respondent violated a provision of the TPO/CPO that is criminal in nature. Examples include, but are not limited to failing to stay away from the petitioner or another protected party named in the TPO/CPO, contacting the petitioner or another protected party, committing assault, sexual assault, malicious destruction of property or harassment.

***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Criminal court**

The court determines guilt and punishes offenders; only through criminal prosecution can an offender be sent to jail and only the government may bring a criminal prosecution.

***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Criminal justice support/advocacy**

Support, assistance, and advocacy provided to victims at any stage of the criminal justice process, including post sentencing services and support.

***General Legal Services***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Crisis counseling**

In-person crisis intervention, emotional support, and guidance and counseling provided by advocates, counselors, mental health professionals, or peers. Such counseling may occur at the scene of a crime or immediately after a crime or be provided on an ongoing basis.

***Victim Services Offices***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*



### **Crisis hotline counseling**

Operation of a 24-hour telephone service, 7 days a week, which provides counseling, guidance, emotional support, and information and referral.

#### ***Victim Services Offices***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Cross-petitions**

Separate petitions filed by a petitioner and respondent against one another.

#### ***General Legal Services***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Cyber-bullying**

When a child, preteen or teen is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child, preteen or teen using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones.

#### ***Child Advocacy Services***

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

## **D**

---

### **Damages**

Amounts of money awarded to winning parties in civil suits expressed in a judgment.

#### ***General Legal Services***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Dating violence**

Dating violence is defined as violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors · The length of the relationship · The type of relationship · The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

#### ***Domestic Violence***

*Source: U.S. Office of Violence Against Women (OVW)*

### **Dating violence**

Domestic violence that occurs between people who are dating. This is the preferred term to use when describing teenage relationships that are abusive.

#### ***Domestic Violence***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Decedent**

A deceased person; one who has lately died.

#### ***Law Enforcement and Crime***

*Black's Law Dictionary Online, [thelawdictionary.org](http://thelawdictionary.org)*

### **Defendant**

Any party who is required to answer the complaint of a plaintiff or pursuer in a civil lawsuit before a court, or any party who has been formally charged or accused of violating a criminal statute.

#### ***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**Defendants**

Parties against whom civil actions are brought.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Defenses**

Legal doctrines that relieve defendant/perpetrator of liability for having committed a tort.

**General Legal Services**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Delayed discovery rule**

A legal doctrine that suspends the running of statutes of limitations during periods of time in which the victims did not discover, or by the exercise of reasonable diligence, could not have discovered, the injuries that would lead to their causes of action against the defendant/perpetrator.

**General Legal Services**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Depositions**

Pretrial proceedings in which attorneys for parties in a civil case have the opportunity to examine, under oath, the opposing parties and potential witnesses in the case. Depositions are sworn and reduced to writing. The transcripts may be admissible in evidence at trials if the witnesses are no longer available, or for purposes of impeachment.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Diagnostic screening**

When health care providers ask questions about Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) only to patients presenting with risk factors for IPV or signs or symptoms consistent with IPV, not to all patients. See Universal screening.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)

**DNA**

The abbreviation for deoxyribonucleic acid, which is the genetic material present in the cells of all living organisms. DNA is the fundamental building block for an individual's entire genetic makeup. A person's DNA is the same in every cell (with a nucleus). DNA is contained in blood, semen, skin cells, tissue, organs, muscle, brain cells, bone, teeth, hair, saliva, mucus, perspiration, fingernails, urine, feces, etc.

**Sexual Assault**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions

**Domestic Incident Report (DIR)**

Completed by police responding to a domestic incident.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)

**Domestic violence**

Violent acts involving a current or former spouse or domestic partner.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Domestic violence**

A pattern of abusive behavior that is used by an intimate partner to gain or maintain power and control over the other intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

***Domestic Violence***

*Source: U.S. Office of Violence Against Women (OVW)*

**Domestic violence/Integrated Domestic Violence (IDV) court resource coordinators**

Resource Coordinators have to be impartial; they refer for services, but are not advocates. Resource Coordinators have five core responsibilities case identification; service referrals; quality control; supporting compliance reviews and community collaboration.

***Domestic Violence***

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Domestic violence advocate**

Victim advocacy duties include explaining, supporting, encouraging and coordinating resources to minimize psychological, physical, financial and emotional effects on the victim.

***Domestic Violence***

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Domestic violence clerk's office**

A walk-in location, Room 4400 of Superior Court, where victims of domestic violence can file for a TPO/CPO or a motion for contempt.

***Domestic Violence***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Domestic Violence Court (DV Court)**

A criminal court that handles only domestic violence matters.

***Domestic Violence***

*Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Domestic Violence Intake Center (DVIC)**

a walk-in location, Room 4200 of Superior Court or Room 311 of United Medical Center where victims of domestic violence can file for a TPO/CPO, file a motion for contempt, or receive other domestic violence services and referrals.

***Domestic Violence***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP)**

A court-ordered 22-week Court Services & Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) class for batterers.

***Domestic Violence***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Domestic Violence Liaison (DVL)**

NYS Law and Regulations require local districts to retain or employ trained Domestic Violence Liaisons who are primarily responsible for completing the following job tasks: assess the credibility of the assertion of domestic violence; assess the safety of the victim and the victim's dependents and their need for services and other supports; provide information about domestic violence and the options for protection, services and other supports; inform victim about their rights and responsibilities with respect to waivers of public assistance program requirements; gather facts regarding the extent to which domestic violence is a barrier to meeting public assistance requirements, including employment requirements and the need for waivers of such requirements; determine the need for waivers when compliance with public assistance requirements would place the victim and/or the victim's children at greater risk of harm or make it more difficult to escape from the abuse, and make recommendations for granting waivers or grant waivers; periodically reassess the individual's domestic violence circumstances and modify, terminate or extend the waiver(s); establish and maintain a list of, at a minimum, available domestic violence services and a relationship with the providers of the services; coordinate activities with other case managers and examiners within the local SSD; facilitate emergency safety planning with victims in a crisis situation, as necessary; and collect and maintain data/record keeping.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)

**Domestic violence service provider**

A non-profit organization that provides support, counseling and assistance to victims of domestic violence.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Domestic violence shelter**

Also known as a women's shelter is a building or set of apartments where abused and battered women can go to seek refuge from their abusers. The location of the shelter is kept confidential in order to keep your abuser from finding you. Domestic violence shelters generally have room for both mothers and their children. The shelter will provide for all your basic living needs, including food and childcare. The length of time you can stay at the shelter is limited, but most shelters will also help you find a permanent home, job, and other things you need to start a new life. The shelter should also be able to refer you to other services for abused and battered women in your community, including: Legal help, Counseling, Support groups, Services for your children, Employment programs, Health-related services, Educational opportunities, Financial assistance.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: [http://www.helpguide.org/mental/domestic\\_violence\\_abuse\\_help\\_treatment\\_prevention.htm](http://www.helpguide.org/mental/domestic_violence_abuse_help_treatment_prevention.htm)

**Dual arrest**

When a police officer arrests both parties in a domestic violence situation because the officer is unable to determine the predominant aggressor or believes both parties have committed an Intra-family offense.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**DUI/DWI crash**

Accident involving one or more motor vehicles in which at least one driver was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs (DUI) or was legally intoxicated (DWI) at the time of the crash.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

## E

---

### **Economic/financial abuse**

When a batterer uses finances to establish and maintain power and control over a victim. Examples include, but are not limited to, controlling a partner's finances, taking the victim's money without permission, giving the victim an allowance, prohibiting/limiting a victim's access to bank accounts or credit card, denying the victim the right to work and/or sabotaging a victim's credit.

#### ***Domestic Violence***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Elder abuse**

Elder abuse is generally defined to include physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, abandonment, and self-neglect. Some definitions also refer to the failure to take reasonable steps to prevent harm caused by self-neglect. Every state has an adult protective services law with definitions, and many states have other relevant civil or criminal laws. Definitions vary from law to law and state to state. Elder abuse typically is characterized by (a) intentional or negligent action that (b) causes harm, serious risk of harm, or distress to (c) vulnerable older persons. Some definitions of abuse also require a relationship of trust between the older person and the abuser, while others restrict the term to "vulnerable adults or elders."

#### ***Victim Services Offices***

*Source: <http://www.eldersandcourts.org/Elder-Abuse/Basics.aspx>*

### **Emergency/temporary shelter**

Immediate, confidential and safe housing for victims of domestic violence who are fleeing abuse; can be through a domestic violence program or at an undisclosed hotel.

#### ***Victim Services Offices***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Emergency financial assistance**

Cash outlays for such needs as transportation, food, clothing, and emergency housing.

#### ***Victim Services Offices***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Emergency legal advocacy**

Filing of temporary restraining orders, injunctions and other protective orders, elder abuse ... petitions, and child abuse ... petitions. Does not include criminal prosecution or the employment of attorneys for such nonemergency purposes as custody disputes and civil suits.

#### ***General Legal Services***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Emergency Temporary Protection Order (ETPO)**

An emergency court order granted when the court is closed (nights, holidays and weekends) and valid only until the next business day the court is open. ETPOs generally order a respondent to stay away from or have no contact with the petitioner and can also direct a person not to commit any criminal offenses against the petitioner. The only way a victim can get an ETPO is to call the police, who then can initiate the process.

#### ***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Emotional/psychological abuse**

Examples include, but are not limited to putting the victim down or making the victim feel bad about her/himself, calling the victim names, playing mind games, making the victim think s/he is crazy, making the victim feel guilty and/or humiliating the victim. when a batterer uses emotions, self esteem and/or a person's mental state to establish and maintain power and control over a victim.

**Mental Health**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Emotional abuse of a child**

Any attitude or behavior which interferes with a child's mental health or social development. This includes yelling, screaming, name-calling, shaming, negative comparisons to others, telling them they are "bad, no good, worthless" or "a mistake." It also includes the failure to provide the affection and support necessary for the development of a child's emotional, social, physical and intellectual well-being. This includes ignoring, lack of appropriate physical affection (hugs), not saying "I love you," withdrawal of attention, lack of praise and lack of positive reinforcement.

**Child Advocacy Services**

Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline

**Empathy**

When one person identifies with or experiences the feelings or thoughts of another.

**Mental Health**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Ex parte**

Latin, "for one party." - A judge renders a decision with only one party being in court. Ex parte can also refer to improper communication with one party without notice to the other.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)

**Extortion**

The act of obtaining the property of another person through wrongful use of actual or threatened force, violence, or fear.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**F**

---

**False imprisonment**

The unlawful restraint by one person of another person's physical liberty.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**Family court**

A civil court that has authority over child custody, child support, paternity, family offenses, juvenile delinquency, persons in need of supervision (PINS), adoptions, and child abuse and neglect matters.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)

### **Family violence**

Family Violence is classified as a criminal act of assault with regard to married couples or members of the same family. Family Violence can take place in a variety forms, but typically requires the presence of abuse sustained by one individual member of a romantic couple at the hands of the other member of the couple; Family Violence can manifest itself in physical, emotional, sexual, or psychological forms. Family violence can also be grouped with child abuse or acts of violence administered to children in a family setting. Regardless of the classification, all acts of family violence, whether delivered in an emotional, physical or psychological medium, are considered debilitating and in most cases illegal. Contact a family lawyer to find legal protection.

#### ***Domestic Violence***

*Source: <http://domestic-violence.laws.com>*

### **Feeling blue**

English idiom meaning that a person is feeling unwell; mainly associated with depression or unhappiness.

#### ***Mental Health***

*Source: Authors*

### **Felonious assault**

A criminal assault that is classified as a felony and involves the infliction of serious bodily injury by the use of a dangerous weapon.

#### ***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: <http://research.lawyers.com/glossary/felonious-assault.html>*

### **Felony**

In American law. The term has no very definite or precise meaning, except in some cases where it is defined by statute. For the most part, the state laws, in describing any particular offense, declare whether or not it shall be considered a felony. Apart from this, the word seems merely to imply a crime of a graver or more atrocious nature than those designated as "misdemeanors." U. S. v. Coppersmith (C. C.) 4 Fed. 205; Bannon v. U. S., 150 U. S. 404, 15 Sup. Ct. 407, 39 L. Ed. 494; Mitchell v. State. 42 Ohio St.3S0; State v. Lincoln, 49 N. II. 409.The statutes or codes of several of the states define felony as any public offense or conviction of which the offender is liable to be sentenced to death or to imprisonment in a penitentiary or state prison. Pub. St. Mass. 18S2, p. 1290; Code Ala. 1SS0.

#### ***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: Black's Law Dictionary Online, [thelawdictionary.org](http://thelawdictionary.org)*

### **Felony**

A crime of a more serious nature than a misdemeanor, usually punishable by imprisonment in a penitentiary for more than a year and/or substantial fines.

#### ***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

### **Felony**

An offense, as murder or burglary, of graver character than those called misdemeanors, especially those commonly punished in the U.S. by imprisonment for more than a year.

#### ***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

**Female genital mutilation (FGM)**

The term FGM covers three main varieties of genital mutilation 1. “Sunna” circumcision, meaning “traditional,” consists of the removal of the prepuce and/or the tip of the clitoris. 2. Clitoridectomy (also referred to as excision) consists of the removal of the entire clitoris (both prepuce and glans) and the removal of the adjacent labia. 3. Infibulation (also referred to as pharaonic circumcision), is the most extreme form, consisting of the removal of the clitoris, the adjacent labia (majora and minora), and the joining of the scraped sides of the vulva across the vagina, where they are secured with thorns or sewn with catgut or thread. A small opening is kept to allow passage of urine and menstrual blood. An infibulated woman must be cut open to allow intercourse on the wedding night and is closed again afterwards to secure fidelity to the husband. The World Health Organization has classified FGM into four types Type I - Excision of the prepuce, with or without excision of part or all of the clitoris. Type II - Excision of the clitoris with partial or total excision of the labia minora. Type III - Excision of part or all of the external genitalia and stitching/narrowing of the vaginal opening (infibulation). Type IV – Unclassified which includes pricking, piercing or incising of the clitoris and/or labia; stretching of the clitoris and/or labia; cauterization by burning of the clitoris and surrounding tissue. FGM is currently illegal in most countries. The United Nations, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization have considered FGM to be a violation of Human Rights and have made recommendations to eradicate this practice.

**Sexual Assault**

Source: *V-Day.org*

**Financial qualification form**

Form or document providing financial information and history to determine qualifications to receive services.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: *District of Columbia Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, <http://ovsjg.dc.gov/service/financial-assistance-victims>*

**First party action**

Lawsuits brought by victims directly against their perpetrators.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Flashbacks**

According to 10 CFR 712.3 [Title 10 Energy; Chapter III Department of Energy; Part 712 Human Reliability Program; Subpart A Establishment of and Procedures for the Human Reliability Program; General Provisions], flashback means “an involuntary, spontaneous recurrence of some aspect of a hallucinatory experience or perceptual distortion that occurs long after taking the hallucinogen that produced the original effect; also referred to as hallucinogen persisting perception disorder.”

**Mental Health**

Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/f/flashback-human-reliability-program/>

**Follow-up contact**

In-person contacts, telephone contacts, and written communications with victims to offer emotional support, provide empathetic listening, and check on a victim’s progress.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*



### **Foreign born**

A person not born in the United States.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: <http://www.uscis.gov/>

### **Forensic sexual assault exam**

The exam will most likely begin with the examiner obtaining a complete and thorough medical history from the victim. The medical forensic exam also involves a head to toe physical examination, which includes the genital area. This may also include: Collection of blood, urine, hair and other body secretion samples. Photo documentation. Collection of the victim's clothing, especially undergarments. Collection of any possible physical evidence that may have transferred onto the victim from the rape scene. Once the examination is completed and all specimens are collected, they are carefully packaged and stored to assure that they are not contaminated. They are maintained under chain of custody until further action is taken.

#### **Sexual Assault**

Source: <https://www.rainn.org/get-information/sexual-assault-recovery/rape-kit>

### **Fraud**

A deliberate deception perpetrated for unlawful or unfair gain.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

## **G**

---

### **Gang violence**

Criminal acts committed by a group of three or more individuals who regularly engage in criminal activity and identify themselves with a common name or sign.

#### **Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

### **Gender-based violence**

This strategy defines “gender-based violence” as violence that is directed at an individual based on his or her biological sex, gender identity, or perceived adherence to socially defined norms of masculinity and femininity. It includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse; threats; coercion; arbitrary deprivation of liberty; and economic deprivation, whether occurring in public or private life. Gender-based violence can include female infanticide; child sexual abuse; sex trafficking and forced labor; sexual coercion and abuse; neglect; domestic violence; elder abuse; and harmful traditional practices such as early and forced marriage, “honor” killings, and female genital mutilation/cutting.

#### **Victim Services Offices**

Source: USAID.gov adapted from *Gender-based Violence and HIV: A Program Guide for Integrating Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response in PEPFAR Programs*

### **Group treatment**

Coordination and provision of supportive group activities, which include self-help, peer, and social support.

#### **Mental Health**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Guardian ad Litem (GAL)**

A person appointed by the Court in a case to represent the best interests of a child in legal proceedings.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**H**

---

**Hate crime**

A hate crime is a traditional offense like murder, arson, or vandalism with an added element of bias. For the purposes of collecting statistics, Congress has defined a hate crime as a “criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender’s bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.”

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: FBI.gov

**Head-to-toe exam**

A detailed examination and assessment of the entire body (including an internal examination). This may include collection of blood, urine, hair and other body secretion samples, photo documentation of injuries (such as bruises, cuts and scraped skin), collection of clothing (especially undergarments).

**Sexual Assault**

Source: <https://www.rainn.org/get-information/aftermath-of-sexual-assault/preserving-and-collecting-forensic-evidence>

**Home invasion sexual assault**

When a stranger breaks into the victim’s home to commit the assault.

**Sexual Assault**

Source: Rape, Abuse, & Incest National Network, [rainn.org](http://rainn.org)

**Honour killing**

‘Honour killing’ is an ancient practice in which men kill female relatives in the name of family ‘honour’ for forced or suspected sexual activity outside marriage, even when they have been victims of rape.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/newsline/00pr17.htm>

**Hostage**

An innocent person held captive by one who threatens to kill or harm him if his demands are not met. A person who is given into the possession of the enemy, in time of war, his freedom (or life) to stand as security for the performance of some contract or promise made by the belligerent power giving the hostage with the other.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: Black’s Law Dictionary, 5th Edition

**Hotline**

A free 24 hour / 7 day a week phone number answered by advocates who offer assistance to victims of domestic violence. Assistance may include shelter, legal services and/or safety planning.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

### **Human trafficking (sex trafficking)**

Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

#### **Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

---

## I

### **Identity theft**

A crime in which an imposter obtains key pieces of personal information, such as Social Security or driver's license numbers, to impersonate someone else.

#### **Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

### **Illegal**

Against, or not authorized by law; unlawful.

#### **Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

### **Immigrant**

Any person not a citizen of the United States who is residing in the U.S. under legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent residence as an immigrant. Also known as "Permanent Resident Alien," "Resident Alien Permit Holder," and "Green Card Holder."

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

### **Incest**

*Incest as defined by the Survivors of Incest Anonymous World Services Offices:* Incest is any sexual behavior imposed on the child by a family member, including extended family members, such as teachers or clergy. Sexual contacts may include a variety of verbal and/or physical behaviors; penetration is not necessary for the experience to count as incest. *Incest as defined by the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Center:* Incest happens in the family when an adult or older adolescent uses a child or young person for their sexual gratification. It can include fondling, exhibitionism, intercourse, oral or anal sex, masturbation, photographing naked children, or child prostitution. *Incest as defined by Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACOA) Incest Survivors:* Incest is an act of power against a child that takes a sexual form. We define incestuous acts to include suggestive or seductive talk or behavior directed at a child; any unwanted invasive touching, including kissing, wrestling and tickling; non-medical enemas; showing a child pornography or nudity; sexual fondling; oral sex; sodomy; and/or intercourse. Incest survivors come from both sexes and all economic and social backgrounds, races, religions nationalities and sexual preferences. *In New York State, Section 255.25 of the Penal Law provides Incest:* A person is guilty of incest when he or she marries or engages in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual intercourse with a person whom he or she knows to be related to him or her, either legitimately or out of wedlock, as an ancestor, descendant, brother or sister of either the whole or the half blood, uncle, aunt, nephew or niece. Incest is a class E felony.

#### **Child Advocacy Services**

Source: V-Day.org

**Information and referral (in-person)**

In-person contact with crime victim to identify available services and support.

***Victim Services Offices***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Information and referral (telephone)**

Telephone contact with crime victim to identify available services and support.

***Victim Services Offices***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Injury**

Injury generally refers to a harm suffered, which may be physical or emotional pain and suffering, damage to reputation or dignity, loss of a legal right, breach of contract, or damage to real or personal property. The civil law seeks to compensate victims of wrongful acts, whether they are intentional or unintentional, for the injuries that could reasonably be expected from such acts. Injuries must be proven by the plaintiff and evidence may be introduced to support the amount, if any, of money damages sought. The seriousness of the injury depends on medical evidence, usually proven by expert testimony. The distinction between a minor, serious, and grave injury is not subject to precise definition and varies according to applicable law and subjective interpretations by the finder of fact.

***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/i/injury/>*

**Insured**

The individual who has contracted to receive insurance coverage from the Insurer whose actions are otherwise covered by an insurance policy.

***Domestic Violence***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Insurer**

The business entity which has contracted to provide insurance coverage to the insured.

***Domestic Violence***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Interstate Stalking 18 U.S.C. 2261A**

This law makes it a federal crime to travel across a state line or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, intending to injure or harass another person and then placing that person in reasonable fear of death or serious bodily injury [defined in 18 U.S.C. 1365(g)(3)] to her or him or an immediate family member (defined in 18 U.S.C. 115).

***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: V-Day.org*

**Intimidation**

When one person uses threats to cause another person fear and/or coerce her/him into doing something. Examples include, but are not limited to making someone afraid by using looks, actions, gestures and/or a loud voice, destroying property, abusing pets and/or displaying weapons.

***Domestic Violence***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Intra-family offense**

The legal term in the District of Columbia for an act of domestic violence.

#### ***Domestic Violence***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Involuntary servitude**

Involuntary servitude refers to being forced through coercion to work for another. The term is sometimes equated with slavery, however, it does not necessarily imply the complete lack of personal freedom that accompanies slavery. Involuntary servitude of individuals is illegal in the U.S., except when in the form of punishment for a crime. The Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides that “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”

#### ***Victim Services Offices***

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/i/involuntary-servitude/>*

### **Isolation**

When one person uses friends, family and social networks to establish and maintain power and control over a victim. Examples include, but are not limited to controlling where a victim goes, who s/he talks to, what s/he wears, and/or who s/he sees, limiting involvement in places of worship, PTA and other social networks.

#### ***Domestic Violence***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

## **J**

---

### **Judgments**

The formal recitations of the outcomes of civil cases. They are almost always reduced to writing, and recorded as a part of the file.

#### ***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

## **K**

---

### **Kidnapping**

The taking or detaining of a person against his or her will and without lawful authority.

#### ***Law Enforcement and Crime***

*Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

## **L**

---

### **Lethality assessment**

An analysis done by an advocate or law enforcement officer to determine the level of risk of homicide for a victim of domestic violence based on recent and changing behaviors of the batterer.

#### ***Domestic Violence***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical (LCSW-C) (i.e. therapist)**

A social worker trained in psychotherapy who helps individuals deal with a variety of mental health and daily living problems to improve overall functioning. A social worker usually has a master's degree in social work and has studied sociology, growth and development, mental health theory and practice, human behavior/social environment, psychology, research methods.

***Mental Health***

Source: <http://www.medterms.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=15160>

**M**

---

**Mandated**

To officially require (something) make (something) mandatory.

***Courts and Depositions***

Source: *New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Mandated reporter**

New York State recognizes that certain professionals are specially equipped to fulfill the important role of mandated reporter of child abuse or maltreatment. Mandated reporters are required to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment when, in their professional capacity, they are presented with reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment.

***General Legal Services***

Source: *New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Manslaughter, involuntary**

Unlawful killing of another, without malice, when the death is caused by some other unlawful act not usually expected to result in great bodily harm.

***Courts and Depositions***

Source: *National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**Manslaughter, voluntary**

Unlawful killing of another, without malice, when the act is committed with a sudden extreme emotional impulse.

***Courts and Depositions***

Source: *National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

**Morgue**

A place where the bodies of dead persons are kept temporarily pending identification or release for burial or autopsy.

***Law Enforcement and Crime***

Source: *Merriam-Webster.com*

**Motion**

Request for the court to take some specified action.

***Courts and Depositions***

Source: *DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Murder**

The unlawful killing of a human being with deliberate intent to kill.

***Courts and Depositions***

Source: *National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms*

## N

---

### **Neglect of a child**

Failure to provide for a child's physical needs. This includes lack of supervision, inappropriate housing or shelter, inadequate provision of food and water, inappropriate clothing for season or weather, abandonment, denial of medical care and inadequate hygiene.

#### ***Child Advocacy Services***

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

### **Negligence**

A legal doctrine providing that one may be liable to another if (1) he or she owes a legal duty to the other; (2) he or she materially breaches that duty; (3) the breach is the proximate cause of the others injury; and (4) the other person suffers damages.

#### ***Child Advocacy Services***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Non-negligent/voluntary manslaughter**

Intentionally and without legal justification causing the death of another when acting under extreme provocation. The combined category of murder and non-negligent manslaughter excludes involuntary or negligent manslaughter, conspiracies to commit murder, solicitation of murder, and attempted murder.

#### ***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions*

## O

---

### **Obstruction of justice**

Obstruction of justice is an attempt to interfere with the administration of the courts, the judicial system or law enforcement officers. It may include tampering with or intimidating, hiding evidence or interfering with an arrest. It is something a person does to impede the administration of a court process or proper discharge of a legal duty. Interference may be with the work of police, investigators, regulatory agencies, prosecutors, or other (usually government) officials. Often, no actual investigation or substantiated suspicion of a specific incident need exist to support a charge of obstruction of justice. Such activity is a crime.

#### ***Law Enforcement and Crime***

*Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/o/obstruction-of-justice/>*

### **Office for Victims of Crimes (OVC)**

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), one of the seven components within the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), administers the Crime Victims Fund set up by the 1984 Victims of Crime Act.

#### ***Victim Services Offices***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), [www.OVC.org](http://www.OVC.org)*

### **Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG)**

When the petitioner comes to the DVIC, the OAG will decide whether it can take the CPO or contempt case. If the OAG does not take the case, the petitioner can represent her/himself, hire a private attorney or find pro bono counsel.

#### ***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) (District of Columbia)**

The [District of Columbia] Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG) was established by Mayor's Order 2004-119, on July 19, 2004. OVS is responsible for coordinating and supporting victim services within the District by working with DC government agencies and community-based organizations to develop, expand, and improve services that are provided to victims of violent crime. OVS also provides information and recommendations to the Mayor regarding the needs of victims and best practices for meeting those needs.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: District of Columbia Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, <http://ovsjg.dc.gov/>

**P**

---

**Paralegal**

A person with legal skills, but who is not an attorney, and who works under the supervision of a lawyer or who is otherwise authorized by law to use those legal skills.

**General Legal Services**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**Parental liability**

A legal doctrine that holds parents civilly liable for the torts and crimes of their children.

**Child Advocacy Services**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Peonage**

The act of holding people against their will to pay off a debt. A victim's initial agreement to travel or perform the labor does not allow an employer to later restrict that person's freedom or to use force or threats to obtain repayment.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: <http://www.dol.gov/wb/media/reports/trafficking.htm>

**Perjury**

A false statement given while under oath or in a sworn affidavit.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**Perpetrator**

A person carrying out domestic violence behaviors. See **Abuser** and **Batterer**.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Perpetrators**

Persons who have criminally injured victims.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)



### **Personal advocacy**

Assisting victims in securing rights, remedies, and services from other agencies; locating emergency financial assistance and intervening with employers, creditors, and others on behalf of the victim; assisting in filing for losses covered by public and private insurer programs, including workers' compensation, unemployment benefits, and public assistance; and accompanying the victim to the hospital.

#### **Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

### **Petition**

An application asking the court to issue a protection order.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

### **Petitioner**

A person who has filed for a protection order ... seeking protection from a batterer. See **Victim**.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

### **Physical abuse**

When a batterer uses her/his body or other objects to cause harm or injury to establish and maintain power and control over a victim. Examples include, but are not limited to hitting, kicking, biting, pushing, scratching, slapping, strangling, beating, using a weapon against another person, punching, throwing, burning, poisoning, stabbing and shooting.

#### **Domestic Violence**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

### **Physical abuse of a child**

Any non-accidental injury to a child. This includes hitting, kicking, slapping, shaking, burning, pinching, hair pulling, biting, choking, throwing, shoving, whipping, and paddling.

#### **Child Advocacy Services**

Source: *The National Child Abuse Hotline*

### **Physical Evidence Recovery Kits (PERK) (also known as rape kits)**

A sexual assault evidence collection kit affords the opportunity to collect any DNA that may have been left by the suspect. The kit is filled with tools that may be used by the examiner for evidence collection during the forensic medical exam. The contents of the evidence collection kit vary by state and jurisdiction. They may include: Instructions, Bags and sheets for evidence collection, Swabs, Comb, Envelopes, Blood collection devices, Documentation forms.

#### **Sexual Assault**

Source: <https://www.rainn.org/get-information/sexual-assault-recovery/rape-kit>

### **Plaintiff**

Party bringing civil actions. In the case of victim civil remedies, the victim is the plaintiff.

#### **Courts and Depositions**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

### **Post-traumatic growth**

Concept that refers to the positive change that survivors can experience as a result of having been through a major life crisis or traumatic event.

#### **Mental Health**

Source: <http://ptgi.uncc.edu/what-is-ptg/>

**Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**

An anxiety disorder in which symptoms develop following a psychologically distressing event that is outside the normal range of human experiences (military combat, sexual assault, natural disasters, severe auto accidents). The essential features of PTSD include increased arousal, re-experiencing of a traumatic event, and avoidance of stimuli associated with the traumatic event. The symptoms include continued flashbacks, nightmares, and intense distress when exposed to an object or situation that is related to the traumatic event.

**Mental Health**

Source: <http://www.findcounseling.com/glossary/ptsd-post-traumatic-stress-disorders.html>

**Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**

A mental health condition that's triggered by a terrifying event — either experiencing it or witnessing it. Symptoms may include flashbacks, nightmares and severe anxiety, as well as uncontrollable thoughts about the event.

**Mental Health**

Source: *Mayo Clinic*

**Power and control wheel**

A tool many advocates use to illustrate abusive tactics and behaviors used by batterers against victims.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: *DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Predominant aggressor**

The person who poses the most serious ongoing threat in a domestic violence situation.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: *DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Pre-Sentence Investigation (PSI)**

An investigation into the history of a person convicted of a crime, to determine whether there are factors that should ameliorate or increase the sentence. Usually handled by Probation.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: *New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Pro bono**

Short for Latin “pro bono publico” – for the public good. An attorney who will represent a party free of charge.

**General Legal Services**

Source: *New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)*

**Pro se**

A person representing her/himself in court without an attorney.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: *DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Program manager**

The person in charge of Program Management: Program management is the active process of managing multiple global work streams or projects which need to meet or exceed business goals according to a pre-determined methodology or life-cycle. Program management focuses on tighter integration, closely knit communications and more control over program resources and priorities. [International Association of Project and Program Management -2003].

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: <http://www.iappm.org/concepts.htm>

**Prostitute slang terms**

Call girl, clandestinas, courtesan, escort, gigolo, harlot, hooker, lady of the night, sex worker, street walker, strumpet, whore.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: <http://prostitution.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000124>

**Prostitution**

Generally means the commission by a person of any natural or unnatural sexual act, deviate sexual intercourse, or sexual contact for monetary consideration or other thing of value.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/p/prostitution/>

**Prostitution slang terms**

Assignation, hustle, pander.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: <http://prostitution.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000124>

**Protection order**

The general term for an order issued by the Court mandating a batterer to not contact, harass or come within a certain distance of the petitioner and/or other persons named in the order.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: *DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Provocation**

A legal doctrine that may excuse defendant/perpetrator from the consequences of his/her crime/tort if the plaintiff/victim instigated a confrontation, or otherwise caused or provoked the defendant's actions.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**Proximate cause**

The "cause in fact" of injury to victims; a "cause" without which the victim's injuries would not have occurred.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: *.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**Psychological assessment (evaluation)**

Psychological assessment is a process of testing that uses a combination of techniques to help arrive at some hypotheses about a person and their behavior, personality and capabilities. Psychological assessment is also referred to as psychological testing, or performing a psychological battery on a person. Psychological testing is nearly always performed by a licensed psychologist, or a psychology trainee (such as an intern). Psychologists are the only profession that is expertly trained to perform and interpret psychological tests.

**Mental Health**

Source: <http://psychcentral.com/lib/what-is-psychological-assessment/0005890>

**Punitive damages**

Damages awarded to victims against perpetrators, over and above compensatory damages, in order to punish or make an example of perpetrators.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**Q**

---

**Quiet room**

(In the hospital) A place where rape victims wait for the nurse and advocate.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: Authors

**R**

---

**Rape**

Forced sexual intercourse including both psychological coercion as well as physical force. Forced sexual intercourse means vaginal, anal or oral penetration by the offender (s). This category also includes incidents where the penetration is from a foreign object such as a bottle. Includes attempted rapes, male as well as female victims, and both heterosexual and homosexual rape. Attempted rape includes verbal threats of rape.

**Sexual Assault**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions

**Rape**

“Rape” and “sexual assault” are terms used interchangeably to describe crimes that involve unwanted and illegal sexual acts. The legal definitions of rape and sexual assault vary from state to state. Most commonly, a rape involves the use or threat of force to penetrate a victim’s vagina, mouth, or anus. A sexual assault involves the use or threat of force but may not involve penetration. Fondling someone’s breasts or genitals without consent is an example of sexual assault.

**Sexual Assault**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [https://www.ncjrs.gov/ovc\\_archives/reports/help\\_series/pdf/txt/sexualassaultvictimization.txt](https://www.ncjrs.gov/ovc_archives/reports/help_series/pdf/txt/sexualassaultvictimization.txt)

**Rape kit**

See **Physical evidence recovery kits**.

**Sexual Assault****Recovery**

A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

**Mental Health**

Source: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), <http://store.samhsa.gov/shin/content/PEP12-RECDEF/PEP12-RECDEF.pdf>

**Released on Own Recognizance (ROR)**

Released from custody after arrest, without having to post bail.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)

**Remains**

A dead body.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: Merriam-Webster.com

### **Remedy**

the means by which a court grants relief to a person who has been harmed by another person. Remedies can be civil, such as an order of protection, financial compensation or enforcement of other rights, or criminal, such as incarceration or an order to pay a penalty.

#### ***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Repeat victimization**

Refers to the repeated criminal victimization of a person, household, place, business, vehicle or other target however defined.

#### ***Victim Services Offices***

*Source: <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-978.019.5396607/obo-978.019.5396607-0119.xml>*

### **Resilience**

The “power to cope with adversity and adapt to challenges or change.” It is the mix of traits and resources we have that allow us to move past the traumatic event and come out the other end wiser and stronger.

#### ***Mental Health***

*Source: <http://www.victimsofcrime.org/docs/2006%20Kit/resilience-page.pdf>.*

### **Respondent**

A person against whom a protection order (ETPO/TPO/CPO) has been filed; the person from whom a petitioner is seeking protection.

#### ***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### **Restitution**

Court action that requires perpetrators to make financial payments to their victims, usually as a condition of probation or leniency in sentencing.

#### ***Courts and Depositions***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

### **Revictimization**

See Repeat victimization.

#### ***Victim Services Offices***

### **Robbery**

Taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person or persons by force or threat of force or violence.

#### ***Law Enforcement and Crime***

*Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

## **S**

---

### **Safe housing**

Emergency, transitional or permanent shelter/housing that is confidentially located.

#### ***Domestic Violence***

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Safety plan**

Guidelines for stalking victims that, if implemented, may reduce the odds of physical or emotional harm from a stalker.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Safety plan**

A plan, verbal or written, a victim of domestic violence creates with an advocate. The plan consists of action steps a victim can take to keep her/his children safe when violence takes place or to stop violence from happening.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Secondary survivor**

Family members or close intimates of the primary survivor.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: Office of Refugee Resettlement

**Secondary trauma**

A risk we incur when we engage compassionately or empathically with a traumatized adult or child.

**Mental Health**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Self defense**

The legal doctrine which relieves defendants/perpetrators of liability for torts if they acted in the reasonable belief that they had to use force to defend themselves, or others (loved ones, etc.), from death or great bodily harm.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Self care**

The ability to maintain physical, emotional, relational, and spiritual health in times of stress.

**Mental Health**

Source: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA). <http://beta.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/podcasts-selfcare-dbhresponders-presentation.pdf>

**Service of process**

Delivery of legal papers to a respondent notifying the respondent of legal action taken against her/him. Documents must be given either to the respondent personally or to someone living in the respondent's usual residence. Any person over age 18 can serve the documents as long as s/he is not a party to the case. The judge can also order the police to assist with service and a petitioner can ask the police to assist with service when s/he files for a protection order. Whoever serves the papers must complete and sign a Return of Service form indicating the time and place the respondent was served and file this form in the clerk's office.

**General Legal Services**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Settlements**

Agreements among the parties to lawsuits to end the suits without trial; usually the plaintiff agrees to drop the lawsuit for a fixed sum of monetary damages paid by the defendant.

**General Legal Services**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Sexual abuse**

When a batterer uses sexual acts to establish and maintain power and control over a victim without her/his consent. Examples include, but are not limited to making the victim do sexual things against her/his will, sexual assault, treating the victim like a sex object, forcing sex after violence and/or forcing the victim to watch pornography.

**Sexual Assault**

*Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Sexual abuse of a child**

Any sexual act between an adult and child. This includes fondling, penetration, intercourse, exploitation, pornography, exhibitionism, child prostitution, group sex, oral sex, or forced observation of sexual acts.

**Child Advocacy Services**

*Source: The National Child Abuse Hotline*

**Sexual assault**

Sexual assault can be defined as any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs by force or without consent of the recipient of the unwanted sexual activity. Falling under the definition of sexual assault is sexual activity such as forced sexual intercourse, sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling, and attempted rape. It includes sexual acts against people who are unable to consent either due to age or lack of capacity.

**Sexual Assault**

*Source: U.S. Office of Violence Against Women (OVW)*

**Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE)**

The combination of healthcare and evidence collection available to patients upon disclosure of sexual assault. Many jurisdictions have their own protocols guiding this process.

**Sexual Assault**

*Source: [http://www.aequitasresource.org/Prosecutor\\_Reference\\_Medical\\_Evidence.pdf](http://www.aequitasresource.org/Prosecutor_Reference_Medical_Evidence.pdf)*

**Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE)**

A registered nurse who has specialized education and training to provide targeted health care to, and evidence collection for, patients presenting after sexual assault. The International Association of Forensic Nursing (IAFN) is the professional organization representing SANEs: [www.iafn.org](http://www.iafn.org). Some jurisdictions also refer to as SAFEs: Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners.

**Sexual Assault**

*Source: [http://www.aequitasresource.org/Prosecutor\\_Reference\\_Medical\\_Evidence.pdf](http://www.aequitasresource.org/Prosecutor_Reference_Medical_Evidence.pdf)*

**Sexual coercion**

Action that lies on the 'continuum' of sexually aggressive behavior. It can vary from being egged on and persuaded, to being forced to have contact. It can be verbal and emotional, in the form of statements that make you feel pressure, guilt, or shame. You can also be made to feel forced through more subtle actions.

**Sexual Assault**

*Source: National Domestic Violence Hotline*

**Sexual exploitation**

A “pattern of activity involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a minor” is defined as “any combination of two or more separate instances of the sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a minor by the defendant, whether or not the abuse or exploitation (A) occurred during the course of the offense; (B) involved the same minor; or (C) resulted in a conviction for such conduct.” United States v. Dury, 2009 U.S. App. LEXIS 15304 (4th Cir. N.C. July 10, 2009).

**Sexual Assault**

Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/s/sexual-abuse-or-exploitation-of-a-minor/>

**Sexual harassment**

*Sexual Harassment as defined by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)*

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that are connected to decisions about employment or that create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment constitute sexual harassment. These behaviors may include, but are not limited to

- Unwanted sexual advances (even where there may have been a prior consensual relationship)
- Subtle or overt pressure for sexual favors
- Sexual jokes Innuendos
- Suggestive, insulting or obscene comments or gestures
- Repeated advances or propositions
- Source: Verbal abuse of a sexual nature
- Graphic comments about an individual’s body, sexual prowess or sexual deficiencies
- Leering, whistling, touching, pinching in a suggestive or sexual manner
- Coerced sexual acts
- Source: Display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures in the workplace
- Other physical, verbal, or visual conduct of a sexual nature.

**Sexual Assault**

Source: [V-Day.org](http://V-Day.org)

**Sexual offense**

Forcible rape, attempted rape, statutory rape, sexual harassment, prostitution, or other unlawful sexual contact and other unlawful behavior intended to result in sexual gratification or profit from sexual activity.

**Sexual Assault**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**Shaken baby syndrome (SBS)**

SBS is the injury to an infant, toddler or young child resulting from being shaken violently. SBS can occur when a child receives as few as three (3) rapid shakes; head impact is not necessary although frequently occurs. SBS injuries can include brain damage, blindness, seizures, speech and learning disorders including mental retardation, cerebral palsy, damage to neck vertebrae and spinal cord resulting in severe motor dysfunction, paralysis and death.

**Child Advocacy Services**

Source: *The National Child Abuse Hotline*

**Shelter/safe house**

Short- and long-term housing and related support services for victims and families following a victimization.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*



**Sodomy**

Oral or anal copulation between humans, or between humans or animals.

**Sexual Assault**

Source: National Center for State Courts (NCSC) Glossary of Legal Terms

**Solicitation to commit**

A person is guilty of solicitation to commit a crime if, with the purpose of promoting or facilitating its commission, he commands, encourages or requests another person to engage in specific conduct which would constitute such crime or an attempt to commit such crime or which would establish his complicity in its commission or attempted commission. It is immaterial that the actor fails to communicate with the person he solicits to commit a crime if his conduct was designed to effect such a communication. The crime of criminal solicitation is the actual soliciting, or seeking to engage another to commit a crime, not the subsequent commission of a crime. Therefore, a defendant can be convicted of soliciting, even though the person refuses and the solicited crime is never perpetrated, as long as the intent that that crime be committed is present.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/c/criminal-solicitation/>

**Spiritual/religious Abuse**

When a batterer uses spirituality or religion to establish and maintain power and control over a victim. Examples include, but are not limited to controlling the partner's ability to practice her/his own religion or attend services, forcing the partner to convert or practice another religion against her/his will and/or using the spiritual or religious environment, leader and/or congregation to influence a victim's behavior.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Stalking**

Stalking can be defined as a pattern of repeated and unwanted attention, harassment, contact, or any other course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to feel fear.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: U.S. Office of Violence Against Women (OVW)

**Stalking**

Any unwanted contact between two people that directly or indirectly communicates a threat or places the victim in fear.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**State Administering Agency (SAA)**

State or territorial entity receiving victim assistance program funds directly from OVC.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: District of Columbia Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, <http://ovsjg.dc.gov/>

**Status hearing**

Parties appear before a judge, who sets a timeline for how the case will proceed.

**Courts and Depositions**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Statute of limitations**

Periods of time, set by law, after which civil actions cannot be brought.

**General Legal Services**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Stress**

A state of mental or emotional strain or tension resulting from adverse or demanding circumstances.

**Mental Health**

Source: Oxford dictionaries

**Substantiated**

A claim or assentation supported by objective data or other proof of evidence.

**General Legal Services**

Source: Black's Law Dictionary Online, [thelawdictionary.org](http://thelawdictionary.org)

**Supervised visitation**

Contact between a noncustodial party and one or more children in the presence of a third person, either paid or unpaid, who is responsible for observing and, to the greatest extent possible, providing a safe environment for those involved.

**Child Advocacy Services**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Survivor**

A person who was or is being abused or harmed by another person.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

**Survivor of homicide victim (homicide survivor)**

Family member or loved one of a murder victim.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Survivors**

Individuals who have been raped, sexually assaulted or abused. Now read what the U.S. White House says about both these terms and see if you agree with your interpretations. The terms "survivor" and "victim" are both used to describe individuals who have been raped or sexually assaulted. Many of these individuals and the advocates who work with them have come to prefer "survivor," as they regard the term as more empowering. The term "victim," however, is still in widespread use in research studies and in the criminal justice context. In this report, the terms are used interchangeably and always with respect for those who have suffered from these crimes. The White House Council on Women and Girls (2014 p. 8) The term "victim" has legal implications within the criminal justice process and generally means an individual who suffered harm as a result of criminal conduct. "Victims" also have particular rights within the criminal justice process. Federal law enforcement agencies often use the term "victim" as part of their official duties. "Survivor" is a term used by many in the services field to recognize the strength it takes to continue on a journey toward healing in the aftermath of a traumatic experience. President's Interagency Task Force (2013, p. 8).

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: Adapted from U.S. White House definition

## T

---

### T petitions

Process to request a T Visa be awarded.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/other/human-trafficking.html>

### Teen dating violence

A form of abuse exhibited by a dating partner, the abuse can consist of but is not limited to, destructive and aggressive behavior and physical and emotional harm.

#### **Domestic Violence**

Source: *he National Child Abuse Hotline*

### Temporary Protection Order (TPO)

A court order that usually requires a respondent to stay away from and have no contact with the petitioner and directs the respondent not to commit any criminal offenses against the petitioner; the order can also specify issues of custody, require the respondent to vacate the household; and/or relinquish firearms or other property. TPOs are in effect for a period of two weeks but a judge can extend them. To get a TPO you must show you fear immediate danger from your batterer.

#### **Courts and Depositions**

Source: *DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

### Terrorism

According to 6 USCS § 101, the term terrorism is “any activity that--(A) involves an act that--(i) is dangerous to human life or potentially destructive of critical infrastructure or key resources; and (ii) is a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State or other subdivision of the United States; and (B) appears to be intended--(i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping.”

#### **Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/t/terrorism/>

### Terrorism

Use of violence or intimidation to coerce a government or civilian population to further political or social objectives.

#### **Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

### Therapy

Intensive professional, psychological, psychiatric, or other counseling-related treatment for individuals, couples, and family members to provide emotional support in crisis arising from the occurrence of crime. Includes the evaluation of mental health needs and the delivery of psychotherapy.

#### **Mental Health**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

### Third party actions

Lawsuits brought against persons whose negligence or gross negligence has facilitated the commission of a tort by a defendant.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html*

**Threats**

An expression that demonstrates the intention of one person to inflict pain or injury on another person. Examples include, but are not limited to verbal threats such as threats to leave, harm, commit suicide or physical threats, such as a raised hand, fist or gesture.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: *DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Tolling of statutes of limitations**

The running of statutes of limitations is suspended.

**General Legal Services**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Torts**

Civil or private wrongs (as opposed to criminal offenses) committed by perpetrators against victims.

**General Legal Services**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Torture**

Torture is punishment inflicted in the form of physical or psychological pain inflicted on supposed criminals as a means of intimidation, deterrent [sic] or punishment, or to induce them to confess their crimes, and to reveal their associates. Torture is a serious violation of human rights. The United States prohibits torture and self-incrimination through the U.S. Constitution's Fifth Amendment and the Eighth Amendment, which expressly forbids the use of "cruel and unusual punishments."

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/t/torture/>

**Transitional housing**

Shelter for victims of domestic violence and their children that typically lasts up to two years, between receiving emergency services and finding permanent housing.

**Domestic Violence**

Source: *DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)*

**Transportation**

Transport service either to or from a victim service agency.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: *U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)*

**Trauma**

Individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: *U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), [.gov/traumajustice/traumadefinition/definition.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/traumajustice/traumadefinition/definition.aspx)*

### **Trauma-informed services**

A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for healing; recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in staff, clients, and others involved with the system; and responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, and settings.

#### **Mental Health**

Source: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), <http://www.samhsa.gov/nctic/trauma-interventions>

### **Traumatic fistula**

An abnormal opening between the reproductive tract of a woman or girl and one or more body cavities or surfaces, caused by sexual violence, usually but not always in conflict and post-conflict settings.

#### **Sexual Assault**

Source: Acquire Project, June 2006, "Traumatic Gynecologic Fistula: A Consequence of Sexual Violence in Conflict Settings, A report of a meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Sept. 6-8 2005."

### **Trigger (noun)**

Something that sets off a memory tape or flashback transporting the person back to the event of her/his original trauma. Triggers are very personal; different things trigger different people.

#### **Mental Health**

Source: <http://psychcentral.com/lib/what-is-a-trigger/0001414>

### **Trigger (verb)**

Reaction to a flashback with an emotional intensity similar to that at the time of the trauma. A person's triggers are activated through one or more of the five senses: sight, sound, touch, smell and taste.

#### **Mental Health**

Source: <http://psychcentral.com/lib/what-is-a-trigger/0001414>

### **T-Visa**

Type of Visa granted to a Victim of Human Trafficking. This status allows victims of human trafficking to remain in the United States to assist in investigations or prosecutions of human trafficking violators.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/other/human-trafficking.html>

### **T-Visa**

T Visa: T visas may be available to victims of severe forms of trafficking who have complied with any reasonable requests for assistance in the investigation or prosecution of acts of trafficking. However, minors under the age of 15 do not have to comply with such requests in order to be eligible for a T visa. In addition, a victim of a severe form of trafficking is eligible to receive a T visa only if he or she is physically present in the United States, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or at a port of entry on account of such trafficking, and if he or she would suffer extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm upon removal.

#### **Victim Services Offices**

Source: <http://www.dol.gov/wb/media/reports/trafficking.htm>

## U

---

### U petitions

Process to request a U Visa be awarded.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs <http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/other/human-trafficking.html>

### Undocumented immigrant

The term 'undocumented immigrant' refer to foreign nationals residing in the U.S. without legal immigration status. It includes persons who entered the U.S. without inspection and proper permission from the U.S. government, and those who entered with a legal visa that is no longer valid. Undocumented immigrants are also known as unauthorized or illegal immigrants, subject to deportation if apprehended.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: <http://definitions.uslegal.com/u/undocumented-immigrant/>

### Unfounded report

Means that no credible evidence was found.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)

### Uninsured or underinsured motorists

State law usually makes it compulsory that drivers have enough insurance to cover damages if they, or others defined in the policies, are injured by motorists who have no insurance, or not enough insurance, to cover injuries that they have caused.

#### **Domestic Violence**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

### United States Attorney's Office (USAO) (i.e. prosecutor)

When a police report is filed for a criminal violation, the USAO decides whether to file criminal charges. In criminal contempt, if USAO does not file charges, the petitioner may move forward with the case by filing her/his own motion.

#### **Courts and Depositions**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

### Universal screening

A recommendation from the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) American Medical Association (AMA), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) that health care providers (including doctors, nurses or social workers) ask all female patients about their experiences with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) at every visit, and provide referrals for services as indicated. The New York State Department of Health recommends Universal Screening for all female patients.

See **Diagnostic screening**.

#### **Domestic Violence**

Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)

### **Unlawful criminal restraint**

Unlawful restraint. (a) Offense defined.--A person commits an offense if he knowingly: (1) restrains another unlawfully in circumstances exposing him to risk of serious bodily injury; or (2) holds another in a condition of involuntary servitude. (b) Grading.-- (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), an offense under subsection (a) is a misdemeanor of the first degree. (2) If the victim of the offense is an individual under 18 years of age, an offense under subsection (a) is a felony of the second degree.

#### **Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: Statute 2902, PA Constitution

### **U-Visa**

Type of Visa granted to a Victim of Criminal Activity. Victims must have suffered substantial mental or physical abuse due to the criminal activity and possess information concerning that criminal activity. Law enforcement authorities must also certify that the victim has been, is being, or is likely to be helpful in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity.

#### **General Legal Services**

Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, <https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/other/human-trafficking.html>

## **V**

---

### **Verbal abuse**

When a batterer uses words to establish and maintain power and control over a victim. Examples include, but are not limited to the use of language to manipulate, control, ridicule, insult, humiliate, belittle, vilify, and/or show disrespect and disdain to another.

#### **Domestic Violence**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

### **Vicarious trauma**

The impact of exposure to extreme events experienced by another person resulting in the listener feeling overwhelmed by the trauma or triggering the listener's own past trauma(s).

#### **Mental Health**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

### **Vicarious trauma/secondary trauma**

A buildup of exposure to clients' trauma.

#### **Mental Health**

Source: U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA), <http://beta.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/podcasts-selfcare-dbhresponders-presentation.pdf>

### **Victim**

A person who is abused, harmed or killed by another person. See Survivor(s).

#### **Victim Services Offices**

Source: DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV)

### **Victim**

The recipient of a criminal act, usually used in relation to personal crimes, but also applicable to households.

#### **Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions

**Victim advocates**

A professional who has received special training in how to aid and support crime and intimate partner abuse victims in obtaining services in medical, legal and social service settings. Advocates may provide information, emotional support, help in filling out forms, accompany the victim to court, interviews, medical exams, etc., help find alternative housing, help prepare safety plans, among other things.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Victim compensation**

Payment or reparations made to a crime victim.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Victim of crime**

Person who has suffered physical, sexual, financial, or emotional harm as a result of the commission of a crime.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Victim services**

According to 42 USCS § 13925 [Title 42. The Public Health And Welfare; Chapter 136 Violent Crime Control And Law Enforcement Violence Against Women], the term “victim services” or “victim service provider” means a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization that assists domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking victims, including rape crisis centers, domestic violence shelters, faith-based organizations, and other organizations, with a documented history of effective work concerning domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: [www.uslegal.com](http://www.uslegal.com)

**Victim services**

Those efforts that (1) respond to the emotional and physical needs of crime victims; (2) assist primary and secondary victims of crime to stabilize their lives after a victimization; (3) assist victims to understand and participate in the criminal justice system; and (4) provide victims of crime with a measure of safety and security such as boarding-up broken windows and replacing or repairing locks.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, <http://www.ovc.gov/voca/vaguide.htm>

**Victimization**

A crime as it affects one individual person or household. For personal crimes, the number of victimizations is equal to the number of victims involved. The number of victimizations may be greater than the number of incidents because more than one person may be victimized during an incident. Each crime against a household is assumed to involve a single victim, the affected household.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions

**Victimization rate**

Number of victimizations per 1,000 persons or households that occurred during the year.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions



**Victimize**

To commit a crime against a person or household.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics—all terms and definitions

**Victims**

Persons who have been injured by the criminal acts of perpetrators.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Victims of crime compensation office**

Office handling payment or reparations made to a crime victim.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: Authors

**Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)**

1984 Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to help victims and victim service providers with program funding in accordance with OVC's Program Plan for the fiscal year.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), [www.OVC.org](http://www.OVC.org)

**Victims with disabilities**

Victims of crime who have a physical or mental disability.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, <http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.htm>

**Visualization**

Formation of mental visual images.

**Mental Health**

Source: Merriam-Webster.com

---

**W**

**Waiver**

A temporary delay from participating in certain temporary (cash) assistance program requirements at social services. If you are a victim of domestic violence and participating in those requirements puts you and/or your children at further risk of harm, or make it more difficult to escape the abuse, the Domestic Violence Liaison can grant you a waiver from certain program requirements that apply. When a waiver is granted for a specific program requirement, a victim of domestic violence can still receive TA benefits while not complying with that requirement. The waiver will expire when the case is closed, so provide all documentation and don't miss appointments.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NYS OPDV)

**Wellness**

Wellness is an active process of becoming aware of and making choices toward a healthy and fulfilling life. "...a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." - The World Health Organization. "a conscious, self-directed and evolving process of achieving full potential." - The National Wellness Institute. Wellness is more than being free from illness, it is a dynamic process of change and growth.

**Mental Health**

Source: <http://shcs.ucdavis.edu/wellness/#.VBYL4GfwwDc>

**White-collar crime**

Nonviolent crime for financial gain committed by means of deception by persons with special technical and professional knowledge of business or government.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)

**Witness room**

A place designated for witnesses.

**General Legal Services**

Source: Authors

**Witness tampering**

Excerpt from 18 U.S. Code § 1512 - Tampering with a witness, victim, or an informant: Whoever intentionally harasses another person and thereby hinders, delays, prevents, or dissuades any person from — **(1)** attending or testifying in an official proceeding; **(2)** reporting to a law enforcement officer or judge of the United States the commission or possible commission of a Federal offense or a violation of conditions of probation supervised release, parole, or release pending judicial proceedings; **(3)** arresting or seeking the arrest of another person in connection with a Federal offense; or **(4)** causing a criminal prosecution, or a parole or probation revocation proceeding, to be sought or instituted, or assisting in such prosecution or proceeding; or attempts to do so, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 3 years, or both. **(e)** In a prosecution for an offense under this section, it is an affirmative defense, as to which the defendant has the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence, that the conduct consisted solely of lawful conduct and that the defendant's sole intention was to encourage, induce, or cause the other person to testify truthfully.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/1512>

**Wraparound services**

Wraparound services are community-based interventions that emphasize the strengths of individuals, children and families and coordinate the delivery of highly individualized services to address their needs and achieve positive outcomes in their lives.

**Victim Services Offices**

Source: Adapted from CA Welfare and Institutions Code §18251(d)

**Wrongful death**

The civil action for the killing of one human by another, without justification or excuse.

**Law Enforcement and Crime**

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, [www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html](http://www.ovc.gov/library/glossary.html)



6925 B Willow Street, NW  
Washington, DC 22042

[www.ayuda.com](http://www.ayuda.com)