PHYSICAL ABUSE

Pushing, Shoving, Hitting

Threatening to report her to the INS to get her deported. Threatening to withdraw the petition to legalize her immigration status.

Hiding or destroying important papers (passport, ID cards, health-care cards, etc.). Destroying her only property from her country of origin.

Economic Abuse

Making and/or carrying out threats to do something to harm her. Threatening to leave, commit suicide, or report her to welfare. Making her drop charges. Making her do illegal things.


Emotional Abuse

Preventing her from getting or keeping a job. Making her ask for money. Giving her an allowance. Taking her money. Not allowing her to know about or have access to the family income.

Making her feel guilty about the children. Using children to relay messages. Using visitation to harass her. Threatening to take the children away.

Power and Control

Controlling what she does, who she sees or talks to, what she reads, where she goes. Limiting your outside involvement. Using jealousy to justify actions.

Preventing her from getting or keeping a job. Making all the big decisions. Acting like the “master of the castle.” Being the one to define men’s and women’s roles.

Making light of the abuse and not taking her concerns about it seriously. Saying the abuse didn’t happen. Shifting responsibility for abusive behavior. Saying she caused it.

Denying Privileges


THREATENING HER TO WORK "UNDER THE TABLE.” Not letting her get job training or schooling.

Lying about her immigration status. Writing to her family and telling lies about her. Calling her racist names.

Using Male Privilege

Threatening to report her if she works “under the table.” Not letting her get job training or schooling.

Calling her a prostitute or “mail order bride.” Alleging on legal papers that she has a history of prostitution.

Isolating her from friends, family, or anyone who speaks her language. Not allowing her to learn English.