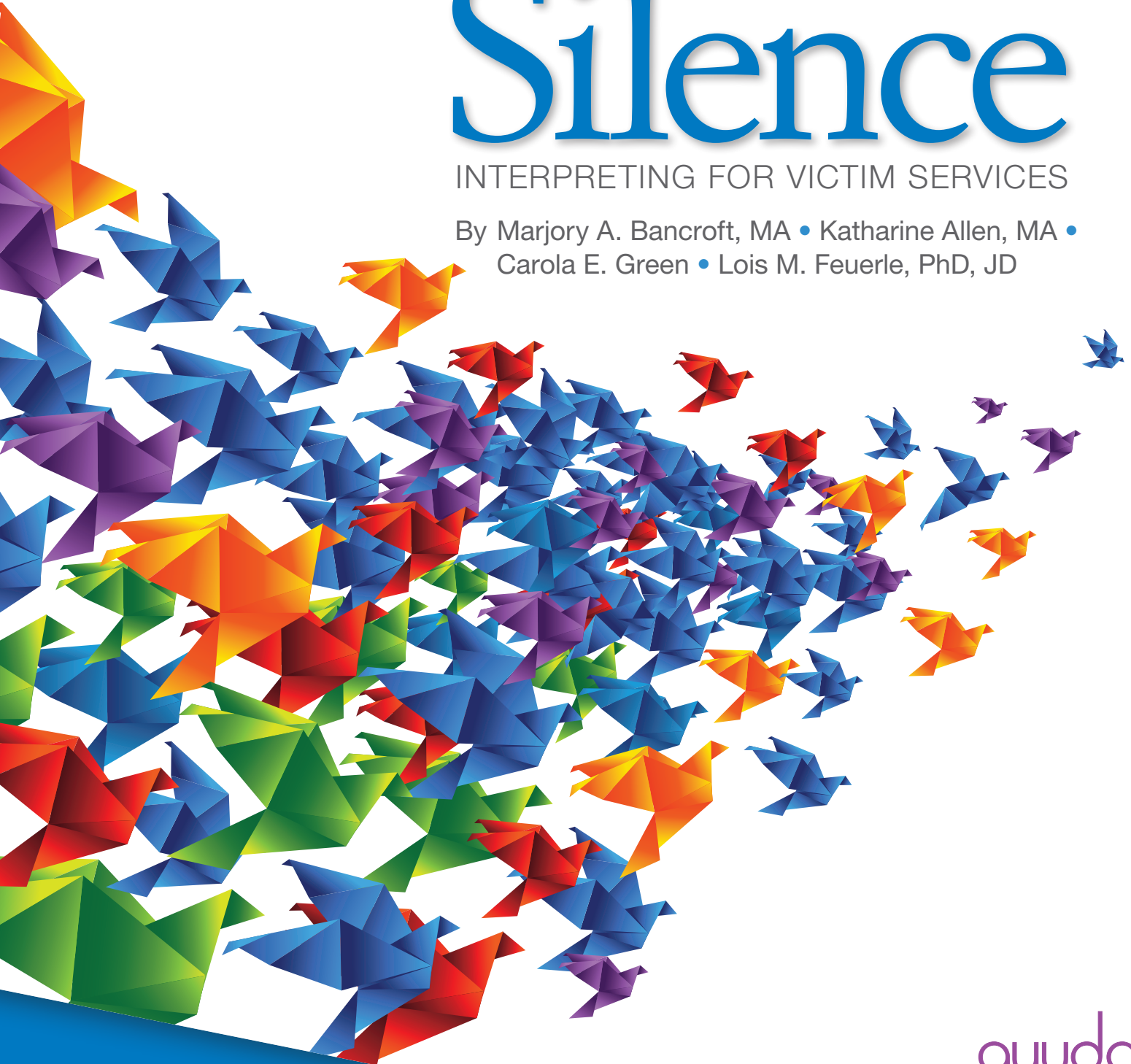


Breaking Silence

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

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Carola E. Green, and Lois M. Feuerle, JD, PhD*

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A GLOSSARY OF VICTIM SERVICES TERMINOLOGY

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ACRONYMS IN VICTIM SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

COURTS AND DEPOSITIONS

A

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

Civil conspiracy

See Aiding and abetting.

Source: 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. 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.

Source: Black’s Law Dictionary Online, 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Substantiated

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

Source: Black's Law Dictionary Online, 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. Some jurisdictions also refer to as SAFEs: Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners.

Source: 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Victim compensation

Payment or reparations made to a crime victim.

Source: U.S. Office for Victims of Crime, 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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*

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*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assignment, 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: *U.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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. Some jurisdictions also refer to as SAFEs: Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners.

Sexual Assault

Source: 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

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

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

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 assertion supported by objective data or other proof of evidence.

General Legal Services

Source: Black's Law Dictionary Online, 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

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

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*

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*

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*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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