

WomensLaw.org Roundtable Discussion

Exercise

Participants will group to represent each one of the 3 clients depicted on the 'Intake forms'. Each form will be filled with the situation information and the participants will have to checkmark the information they think should be provided to that particular participant as s/he interacts with the legal system to work through the situation depicted. A separate blank paper will be provided so they can 'map' that interaction. They will have 5 minutes to read and fill out the information.

Situations

1. José lives in Texas where his daughter was born. He is Rocío's dad. She is 23 years old and has been living with her abusive boyfriend in Florida for the last 2 years. He knows her boyfriend has hit her at least one, and is very emotionally abusive, even in public. José is sad and frustrated. She has a 1 year old son with her boyfriend and José wants to get his custody so maybe his daughter will react and leave the abuser.
2. María is a 32 year old Colombian woman that came last year to the US with a fiancé visa. Although she did not marry that man, about 8 months after being in the States, she met who she thought was her soulmate. Her husband is a USC but has done no paperwork to help her become a LPR. He is verbally abusive and has forced her to have sex more than once, saying that's her duty as his wife. She believes this to be true. She wants to leave the relationship but is afraid of him calling USCIS.
3. Adela, 26, is a graduate student at the Florida State University. She is natural from North Carolina, but she lives in an off campus apartment with her roommate Melissa. They have had brief sexual interactions and Melissa took some naked pictures of her, with Adela's consent. However, Adela they have never had a relationship and she is not interested in having any other sexual interactions with Melissa and has made that fairly clear. Melissa thinks Adela is going out with another girl and has begun following her and has even threatened with posting her pictures on Instagram. Adela just wants Melissa to delete the pictures and stop following her. She also wants her to move out, but doesn't want to get her into trouble in the school.