

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262

AN ACT DEFINING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN, PROVIDING FOR PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR VICTIMS, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Section 1. Short Title.- This Act shall be known as the *"Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004."*

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.- It is hereby declared that the State values the dignity of women and children and guarantees full respect for human rights. The State also recognizes the need to protect the family and its members particularly women and children, from violence and threats to their personal safety and security.

Towards this end, the State shall exert efforts to address violence committed against women and children in keeping with the fundamental freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution and the Provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the convention on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination Against Women, Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments of which the Philippines is a party.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.- As used in this Act:

(a) *"Violence against women and their children"* refers to any act or a series of acts committed by any person against a woman who is his wife, former wife, or against a woman with whom the person has or had a sexual or dating relationship, or with whom he has a common child, or against her child whether legitimate or illegitimate, within or without the family abode, which result in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering, or economic abuse including threats of such acts, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty. It includes, but is not limited to, the following acts:

A. *"Physical Violence"* refers to acts that include bodily or physical harm;

B. *"Sexual violence"* refers to an act which is sexual in nature, committed against a woman or her child. It includes, but is not limited to:

a) Rape, sexual harassment, acts of lasciviousness, treating a woman or her child as a sex object, making demeaning and sexually suggestive remarks, physically attacking the sexual parts of the victim's body, forcing her/him to watch obscene publications and indecent shows or forcing the woman or her child to do indecent acts and/or make films thereof, forcing the wife and mistress/lover to live in the conjugal home or sleep together in the same room with the abuser;

b) Acts causing or attempting to cause the victim to engage in any sexual activity by force, threat of force, physical or other harm or threat of physical or other harm or coercion;

c) Prostituting the woman or child.

C. *"Psychological violence"* refers to acts or omissions causing or likely to cause mental or emotional suffering of the victim such as but not limited to intimidation, harassment, stalking,

damage to property, public ridicule or humiliation, repeated verbal abuse and mental infidelity. It includes causing or allowing the victim to witness the physical, sexual or psychological abuse of a member of the family to which the victim belongs, or to witness pornography in any form or to witness abusive injury to pets or to unlawful or unwanted deprivation of the right to custody and/or visitation of common children.

D. "*Economic abuse*" refers to acts that make or attempt to make a woman financially dependent which includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Withdrawal of financial support or preventing the victim from engaging in any legitimate profession, occupation, business or activity, except in cases wherein the other spouse/partner objects on valid, serious and moral grounds as defined in Article 73 of the Family Code;

2. Deprivation or threat of deprivation of financial resources and the right to the use and enjoyment of the conjugal, community or property owned in common;

3. Destroying household property;

4. Controlling the victims' own money or properties or solely controlling the conjugal money or properties.

(b) "*Battery*" refers to an act of inflicting physical harm upon the woman or her child resulting to the physical and psychological or emotional distress.

(c) "*Battered Woman Syndrome*" refers to a scientifically defined pattern of psychological and behavioral symptoms found in women living in battering relationships as a result of cumulative abuse.

(d) "*Stalking*" refers to an intentional act committed by a person who, knowingly and without lawful justification follows the woman or her child or places the woman or her child under surveillance directly or indirectly or a combination thereof.

(e) "*Dating relationship*" refers to a situation wherein the parties live as husband and wife without the benefit of marriage or are romantically involved over time and on a continuing basis during the course of the relationship. A casual acquaintance or ordinary socialization between two individuals in a business or social context is not a dating relationship.

(f) "*Sexual relations*" refers to a single sexual act which may or may not result in the bearing of a common child.

(g) "*Safe place or shelter*" refers to any home or institution maintained or managed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) or by any other agency or voluntary organization accredited by the DSWD for the purposes of this Act or any other suitable place the resident of which is willing temporarily to receive the victim.

(h) "*Children*" refers to those below eighteen (18) years of age or older but are incapable of taking care of themselves as defined under Republic Act No. 7610. As used in this Act, it includes the biological children of the victim and other children under her care.

Sec. 4. Construction.- This Act shall be liberally construed to promote the protection and safety of victims of violence against women and their children.

Sec. 5. Acts of Violence Against Women and Their Children.- The crime of violence against women and their children is committed through any of the following acts:

- (a) Causing physical harm to the woman or her child;
- (b) Threatening to cause the woman or her child physical harm;
- (c) Attempting to cause the woman or her child physical harm;
- (d) Placing the woman or her child in fear of imminent physical harm;
- (e) Attempting to compel or compelling the woman or her child to engage in conduct which the woman or her child has the right to desist from or desist from conduct which the woman or her child has the right to engage in, or attempting to restrict or restricting the woman's or her child's freedom of movement or conduct by force or threat of force, physical or other harm or threat of physical or other harm, or intimidation directed against the woman or child. This shall include, but not limited to, the following acts committed with the purpose or effect of controlling or restricting the woman's or her child's movement or conduct:
 - (1) Threatening to deprive or actually depriving the woman or her child of custody to her/his family;
 - (2) Depriving or threatening to deprive the woman or her children of financial support legally due her or her family, or deliberately providing the woman's children insufficient financial support;
 - (3) Depriving or threatening to deprive the woman or her child of a legal right; and
 - (4) Preventing the woman in engaging in any legitimate profession, occupation, business or activity or controlling the victim's own money or properties, or solely controlling the conjugal or common money, or properties.
- (f) Inflicting or threatening to inflict physical harm on oneself for the purpose of controlling her actions or decisions;
- (g) Causing or attempting to cause the woman or her child to engage in any sexual activity which does not constitute rape, by force or threat of force, physical harm, or through intimidation directed against the woman or her child or her/his immediate family;
- (h) Engaging in purposeful, knowing, or reckless conduct, personally or through another, that alarms or causes substantial emotional or psychological distress to the woman or her child. This shall include, but not be limited to, the following acts:
 - (1) Stalking or following the woman or her child in public or private places;
 - (2) Peering in the window or lingering outside the residence of the woman or her child;
 - (3) Entering or remaining in the dwelling or on the property of the woman or her child against her/his will;
 - (4) Destroying the property and personal belongings or inflicting harm to animals or pets of the

woman or her child; and

(5) Engaging in any form of harassment or violence.

(i) Causing mental or emotional anguish, public ridicule or humiliation to the woman or her child, including, but not limited to, repeated verbal and emotional abuse, and denial of financial support or custody of minor children of access to the woman's child/children.

Sec. 6. Penalties.- The crime of violence against women and their children, under Sec. 5 hereof shall be punished according to the following rules:

(a) Acts falling under Sec. 5(a) constituting attempted, frustrated or consummated parricide or murder or homicide shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Penal Code;

If these acts resulted in mutilation, it shall be punishable in accordance with the Revised Penal Code; those constituting serious physical injuries shall have the penalty of prison mayor; those constituting less serious physical injuries shall be punished by prison correccional; and those constituting slight physical injuries shall be punished by arresto mayor;

Acts falling under Sec. 5(b) shall be punished by imprisonment of two degrees lower than the prescribed penalty for the consummated crime as specified in the preceding paragraph but shall in no case be lower than arresto mayor;

(b) Acts falling under Sec. 5(c) and 5(d) shall be punished by arresto mayor;

(c) Acts falling under Sec. 5(e) shall be punished by prison correccional;

(d) Acts falling under Sec. 5(f) shall be punished by arresto mayor;

(e) Acts falling under Sec. 5(g) shall be punished by prison mayor;

(f) Acts falling under Sec. 5(h) and Sec. 5(i) shall be punished by prison mayor.

If the acts are committed while the woman or child is pregnant or committed in the presence of her child, the penalty to be applied shall be the maximum period of penalty prescribed in the Sec.

In addition to imprisonment, the perpetrator shall (a) pay a fine in the amount of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than three hundred thousand pesos (300,000.00); (b) undergo mandatory psychological counseling or psychiatric treatment and shall report compliance to the court.

Sec. 7. Venue.- The Regional Trial Court designated as a Family Court shall have original and exclusive jurisdiction over cases of violence against women and their children under this law. In the absence of such court in the place where the offense was committed, the case shall be filed in the Regional Trial Court where the crime or any of its elements was committed at the option of the compliant.

Sec. 8. Protection Orders.- A protection order is an order issued under this act for the purpose of preventing further acts of violence against a woman or her child specified in Sec. 5 of this Act

and granting other necessary relief. The relief granted under a protection order serve the purpose of safeguarding the victim from further harm, minimizing any disruption in the victim's daily life, and facilitating the opportunity and ability of the victim to independently regain control over her life. The provisions of the protection order shall be enforced by law enforcement agencies. The protection orders that may be issued under this Act are the barangay protection order (BPO), temporary protection order (TPO) and permanent protection order (PPO). The protection orders that may be issued under this Act shall include any, some or all of the following reliefs:

- (a) Prohibition of the respondent from threatening to commit or committing, personally or through another, any of the acts mentioned in Sec. 5 of this Act;
- (b) Prohibition of the respondent from harassing, annoying, telephoning, contacting or otherwise communicating with the petitioner, directly or indirectly;
- (c) Removal and exclusion of the respondent from the residence of the petitioner, regardless of ownership of the residence, either temporarily for the purpose of protecting the petitioner, or permanently where no property rights are violated, and if respondent must remove personal effects from the residence, the court shall direct a law enforcement agent to accompany the respondent has gathered his things and escort respondent from the residence;
- (d) Directing the respondent to stay away from petitioner and designated family or household member at a distance specified by the court, and to stay away from the residence, school, place of employment, or any specified place frequented by the petitioner and any designated family or household member;
- (e) Directing lawful possession and use by petitioner of an automobile and other essential personal effects, regardless of ownership, and directing the appropriate law enforcement officer to accompany the petitioner to the residence of the parties to ensure that the petitioner is safely restored to the possession of the automobile and other essential personal effects, or to supervise the petitioner's or respondent's removal of personal belongings;
- (f) Granting a temporary or permanent custody of a child/children to the petitioner;
- (g) Directing the respondent to provide support to the woman and/or her child if entitled to legal support. Notwithstanding other laws to the contrary, the court shall order an appropriate percentage of the income or salary of the respondent to be withheld regularly by the respondent's employer for the same to be automatically remitted directly to the woman. Failure to remit and/or withhold or any delay in the remittance of support to the woman and/or her child without justifiable cause shall render the respondent or his employer liable for indirect contempt of court;
- (h) Prohibition of the respondent from any use or possession of any firearm or deadly weapon and order him to surrender the same to the court for appropriate disposition by the court, including revocation of license and disqualification to apply for any license to use or possess a firearm. If the offender is a law enforcement agent, the court shall order the offender to surrender his firearm and shall direct the appropriate authority to investigate on the offender and take appropriate action on matter;
- (i) Restitution for actual damages caused by the violence inflicted, including, but not limited to, property damage, medical expenses, childcare expenses and loss of income;

- (j) Directing the DSWD or any appropriate agency to provide petitioner may need; and
- (k) Provision of such other forms of relief as the court deems necessary to protect and provide for the safety of the petitioner and any designated family or household member, provided petitioner and any designated family or household member consents to such relief.

Any of the reliefs provided under this Sec. shall be granted even in the absence of a decree of legal separation or annulment or declaration of absolute nullity of marriage.

The issuance of a BPO or the pendency of an application for BPO shall not preclude a petitioner from applying for, or the court from granting a TPO or PPO.

Sec. 9. Who may file Petition for Protection Orders. – A petition for protection order may be filed by any of the following:

- (a) The offended party;
- (b) Parents or guardians of the offended party;
- (c) Ascendants, descendants or collateral relatives within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity or affinity;
- (d) Officers or social workers of the DSWD or social workers of local government units (LGUs);
- (e) Police officers, preferably those in charge of women and children's desks;
- (f) Punong Barangay or Barangay Kagawad;
- (g) Lawyer, counselor, therapist or healthcare provider of the petitioner;
- (h) At least two (2) concerned responsible citizens of the city or municipality where the violence against women and their children occurred and who has personal knowledge of the offense committed.

Sec. 10. Where to Apply for a Protection Order. – Applications for BPOs shall follow the rules on venue under Sec. 409 of the Local Government Code of 1991 and its implementing rules and regulations. An application for a TPO or PPO may be filed in the regional trial court, metropolitan trial court, municipal trial court, municipal circuit trial court with territorial jurisdiction over the place of residence of the petitioner: Provided, however, That if a family court exists in the place of residence of the petitioner, the application shall be filed with that court.

Sec. 11. How to Apply for a Protection Order. – The application for a protection order must be in writing, signed and verified under oath by the applicant. It may be filed as an independent action or as incidental relief in any civil or criminal case the subject matter or issues thereof partakes of a violence as described in this Act. A standard protection order application form, written in English with translation to the major local languages, shall be made available to facilitate applications for protection order, and shall contain, among other, the following information:

- (a) names and addresses of petitioner and respondent;

- (b) description of relationships between petitioner and respondent;
- (c) a statement of the circumstances of the abuse;
- (d) description of the reliefs requested by petitioner as specified in Sec. 8 herein;
- (e) request for counsel and reasons for such;
- (f) request for waiver of application fees until hearing; and
- (g) an attestation that there is no pending application for a protection order in another court.

If the applicant is not the victim, the application must be accompanied by an affidavit of the applicant attesting to (a) the circumstances of the abuse suffered by the victim and (b) the circumstances of consent given by the victim for the filing of the application. When disclosure of the address of the victim will pose danger to her life, it shall be so stated in the application. In such a case, the applicant shall attest that the victim is residing in the municipality or city over which court has territorial jurisdiction, and shall provide a mailing address for purpose of service processing.

An application for protection order filed with a court shall be considered an application for both a TPO and PPO.

Barangay officials and court personnel shall assist applicants in the preparation of the application. Law enforcement agents shall also extend assistance in the application for protection orders in cases brought to their attention.

Sec. 12. Enforceability of Protection Orders. – All TPOs and PPOs issued under this Act shall be enforceable anywhere in the Philippines and a violation thereof shall be punishable with a fine ranging from Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) and/or imprisonment of six (6) months.

Sec. 13. Legal Representation of Petitioners for Protection Order. – If the woman or her child requests in the applications for a protection order for the appointment of counsel because of lack of economic means to hire a counsel de parte, the court shall immediately direct the Public Attorney's Office (PAO) to represent the petitioner in the hearing on the application. If the PAO determines that the applicant can afford to hire the services of a counsel de parte, it shall facilitate the legal representation of the petitioner by a counsel de parte. The lack of access to family or conjugal resources by the applicant, such as when the same are controlled by the perpetrator, shall qualify the petitioner to legal representation by the PAO.

However, a private counsel offering free legal service is not barred from representing the petitioner.

Sec. 14. Barangay Protection Orders (BPOs); Who May Issue and How. - Barangay Protection Orders (BPOs) refer to the protection order issued by the Punong Barangay ordering the perpetrator to desist from committing acts under Sec. 5 (a) and (b) of this Act. A Punong Barangay who receives applications for a BPO shall issue the protection order to the applicant on the date of filing after ex parte determination of the basis of the application. If the Punong Barangay is unavailable to act on the application for a BPO, the application shall be acted upon by any available Barangay Kagawad. If the BPO is issued by a Barangay Kagawad the order

must be accompanied by an attestation by the Barangay Kagawad that the Punong Barangay was unavailable at the time for the issuance of the BPO. BPOs shall be effective for fifteen (15) days. Immediately after the issuance of an ex parte BPO, the Punong Barangay or Barangay Kagawad shall personally serve a copy of the same on the respondent, or direct any barangay official to effect is personal service.

The parties may be accompanied by a non-lawyer advocate in any proceeding before the Punong Barangay.

Sec. 15. Temporary Protection Orders. – Temporary Protection Orders (TPOs) refers to the protection order issued by the court on the date of filing of the application after ex parte determination that such order should be issued. A court may grant in a TPO any, some or all of the reliefs mentioned in this Act and shall be effective for thirty (30) days. The court shall schedule a hearing on the issuance of a PPO prior to or on the date of the expiration of the TPO. The court shall order the immediate personal service of the TPO on the respondent by the court sheriff who may obtain the assistance of law enforcement agents for the service. The TPO shall include notice of the date of the hearing on the merits of the issuance of a PPO.

Sec. 16. Permanent Protection Orders. – Permanent Protection Order (PPO) refers to protection order issued by the court after notice and hearing.

Respondents non-appearance despite proper notice, or his lack of a lawyer, or the non-availability of his lawyer shall not be a ground for rescheduling or postponing the hearing on the merits of the issuance of a PPO. If the respondents appears without counsel on the date of the hearing on the PPO, the court shall appoint a lawyer for the respondent and immediately proceed with the hearing. In case the respondent fails to appear despite proper notice, the court shall allow ex parte presentation of the evidence by the applicant and render judgment on the basis of the evidence presented. The court shall allow the introduction of any history of abusive conduct of a respondent even if the same was not directed against the applicant or the person for whom the applicant is made.

The court shall, to the extent possible, conduct the hearing on the merits of the issuance of a PPO in one (1) day. Where the court is unable to conduct the hearing within one (1) day and the TPO issued is due to expire, the court shall continuously extend or renew the TPO for a period of thirty (30) days at each particular time until final judgment is issued. The extended or renewed TPO may be modified by the court as may be necessary or applicable to address the needs of the applicant.

The court may grant any, some or all of the reliefs specified in Sec. 8 hereof in a PPO. A PPO shall be effective until revoked by a court upon application of the person in whose favor the order was issued. The court shall ensure immediate personal service of the PPO on respondent.

The court shall not deny the issuance of protection order on the basis of the lapse of time between the act of violence and the filing of the application.

Regardless of the conviction or acquittal of the respondent, the Court must determine whether or not the PPO shall become final. Even in a dismissal, a PPO shall be granted as long as there is no clear showing that the act from which the order might arise did not exist.

Sec. 17. Notice of Sanction in Protection Orders. – The following statement must be printed in

bold-faced type or in capital letters on the protection order issued by the Punong Barangay or court:

"VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS PUNISHABLE BY LAW."

Sec. 18. Mandatory Period For Acting on Applications For Protection Orders – Failure to act on an application for a protection order within the reglementary period specified in the previous Sec. without justifiable cause shall render the official or judge administratively liable.

Sec. 19. Legal Separation Cases. – In cases of legal separation, where violence as specified in this Act is alleged, Article 58 of the Family Code shall not apply. The court shall proceed on the main case and other incidents of the case as soon as possible. The hearing on any application for a protection order filed by the petitioner must be conducted within the mandatory period specified in this Act.

Sec. 20. Priority of Application for a Protection Order. – Ex parte and adversarial hearings to determine the basis of applications for a protection order under this Act shall have priority over all other proceedings. Barangay officials and the courts shall schedule and conduct hearings on applications for a protection order under this Act above all other business and, if necessary, suspend other proceedings in order to hear applications for a protection order.

Sec. 21. Violation of Protection Orders. – A complaint for a violation of a BPO issued under this Act must be filed directly with any municipal trial court, metropolitan trial court, or municipal circuit trial court that has territorial jurisdiction over the barangay that issued the BPO. Violation of a BPO shall be punishable by imprisonment of thirty (30) days without prejudice to any other criminal or civil action that the offended party may file for any of the acts committed.

A judgement of violation of a BPO may be appealed according to the Rules of Court. During trial and upon judgment, the trial court may motu proprio issue a protection order as it deems necessary without need of an application.

Violation of any provision of a TPO or PPO issued under this Act shall constitute contempt of court punishable under Rule 71 of the Rules of Court, without prejudice to any other criminal or civil action that the offended party may file for any of the acts committed.

Sec. 22. Applicability of Protection Orders to Criminal Cases. – The foregoing provisions on protection orders shall be applicable in impliedly instituted with the criminal actions involving violence against women and their children.

Sec. 23. Bond to Keep the Peace. – The Court may order any person against whom a protection order is issued to give a bond to keep the peace, to present two sufficient sureties who shall undertake that such person will not commit the violence sought to be prevented.

Should the respondent fail to give the bond as required, he shall be detained for a period which shall in no case exceed six (6) months, if he shall have been prosecuted for acts punishable under Sec. 5(a) to 5(f) and not exceeding thirty (30) days, if for acts punishable under Sec. 5(g) to 5(i).

The protection orders referred to in this Sec. are the TPOs and the PPOs issued only by the courts.

Sec. 24. Prescriptive Period. – Acts falling under Sec.s 5(a) to 5(f) shall prescribe in twenty (20) years. Acts falling under Sec.s 5(g) to 5(i) shall prescribe in ten (10) years.

Sec. 25. Public Crime. – Violence against women and their children shall be considered a public offense which may be prosecuted upon the filing of a complaint by any citizen having personal knowledge of the circumstances involving the commission of the crime.

Sec. 26. Battered Woman Syndrome as a Defense. – Victim-survivors who are found by the courts to be suffering from battered woman syndrome do not incur any criminal and civil liability notwithstanding the absence of any of the elements for justifying circumstances of self-defense under the Revised Penal Code.

In the determination of the state of mind of the woman who was suffering from battered woman syndrome at the time of the commission of the crime, the courts shall be assisted by expert psychiatrists/ psychologists.

Sec. 27. Prohibited Defense. – Being under the influence of alcohol, any illicit drug, or any other mind-altering substance shall not be a defense under this Act.

Sec. 28. Custody of children. – The woman victim of violence shall be entitled to the custody and support of her child/children. Children below seven (7) years old older but with mental or physical disabilities shall automatically be given to the mother, with right to support, unless the court finds compelling reasons to order otherwise.

A victim who is suffering from battered woman syndrome shall not be disqualified from having custody of her children. In no case shall custody of minor children be given to the perpetrator of a woman who is suffering from Battered woman syndrome.

Sec. 29. Duties of Prosecutors/Court Personnel. – Prosecutors and court personnel should observe the following duties when dealing with victims under this Act:

- a) communicate with the victim in a language understood by the woman or her child; and
- b) inform the victim of her/his rights including legal remedies available and procedure, and privileges for indigent litigants.

Sec. 30. Duties of Barangay Officials and Law Enforcers. – Barangay officials and law enforcers shall have the following duties:

- (a) respond immediately to a call for help or request for assistance or protection of the victim by entering the necessary whether or not a protection order has been issued and ensure the safety of the victim/s;
- (b) confiscate any deadly weapon in the possession of the perpetrator or within plain view;
- (c) transport or escort the victim/s to a safe place of their choice or to a clinic or hospital;
- (d) assist the victim in removing personal belongs from the house;
- (e) assist the barangay officials and other government officers and employees who respond to a call for help;

(f) ensure the enforcement of the Protection Orders issued by the Punong Barangay or the courts;

(g) arrest the suspected perpetrator without a warrant when any of the acts of violence defined by this Act is occurring, or when he/she has personal knowledge that any act of abuse has just been committed, and there is imminent danger to the life or limb of the victim as defined in this Act; and

(h) immediately report the call for assessment or assistance of the DSWD, social Welfare Department of LGUs or accredited non-government organizations (NGOs).

Any barangay official or law enforcer who fails to report the incident shall be liable for a fine not exceeding Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) or whenever applicable criminal, civil or administrative liability.

Sec. 31. Healthcare Provider Response to Abuse – Any healthcare provider, including, but not limited to, an attending physician, nurse, clinician, barangay health worker, therapist or counselor who suspects abuse or has been informed by the victim of violence shall:

(a) properly document any of the victim's physical, emotional or psychological injuries;

(b) properly record any of victim's suspicions, observations and circumstances of the examination or visit;

(c) automatically provide the victim free of charge a medical certificate concerning the examination or visit;

(d) safeguard the records and make them available to the victim upon request at actual cost; and

(e) provide the victim immediate and adequate notice of rights and remedies provided under this Act, and services available to them.

Sec. 32. Duties of Other Government Agencies and LGUs – Other government agencies and LGUs shall establish programs such as, but not limited to, education and information campaign and seminars or symposia on the nature, causes, incidence and consequences of such violence particularly towards educating the public on its social impacts.

It shall be the duty of the concerned government agencies and LGU's to ensure the sustained education and training of their officers and personnel on the prevention of violence against women and their children under the Act.

Sec. 33. Prohibited Acts. – A Punong Barangay, Barangay Kagawad or the court hearing an application for a protection order shall not order, direct, force or in any way unduly influence he applicant for a protection order to compromise or abandon any of the reliefs sought in the application for protection under this Act. Sec. 7 of the Family Courts Act of 1997 and Sec.s 410, 411, 412 and 413 of the Local Government Code of 1991 shall not apply in proceedings where relief is sought under this Act.

Failure to comply with this Sec. shall render the official or judge administratively liable.

Sec. 34. Persons Intervening Exempt from Liability. – In every case of violence against women and their children as herein defined, any person, private individual or police authority or barangay official who, acting in accordance with law, responds or intervenes without using violence or restraint greater than necessary to ensure the safety of the victim, shall not be liable for any criminal, civil or administrative liability resulting therefrom.

Sec. 35. Rights of Victims. – In addition to their rights under existing laws, victims of violence against women and their children shall have the following rights:

- (a) to be treated with respect and dignity;
- (b) to avail of legal assistance from the PAO of the Department of Justice (DOJ) or any public legal assistance office;
- (c) To be entitled to support services from the DSWD and LGUs'
- (d) To be entitled to all legal remedies and support as provided for under the Family Code; and
- (e) To be informed of their rights and the services available to them including their right to apply for a protection order.

Sec. 36. Damages. – Any victim of violence under this Act shall be entitled to actual, compensatory, moral and exemplary damages.

Sec. 37. Hold Departure Order. – The court shall expedite the process of issuance of a hold departure order in cases prosecuted under this Act.

Sec. 38. Exemption from Payment of Docket Fee and Other Expenses. – If the victim is an indigent or there is an immediate necessity due to imminent danger or threat of danger to act on an application for a protection order, the court shall accept the application without payment of the filing fee and other fees and of transcript of stenographic notes.

Sec. 39. Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and Their Children (IAC-VAWC). In pursuance of the abovementioned policy, there is hereby established an Inter-Agency Council on Violence Against Women and their children, hereinafter known as the Council, which shall be composed of the following agencies:

- (a) Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD);
- (b) National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW);
- (c) Civil Service Commission (CSC);
- (d) Commission on Human rights (CHR)
- (e) Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC);
- (f) Department of Justice (DOJ);
- (g) Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG);

- (h) Philippine National Police (PNP);
- (i) Department of Health (DOH);
- (j) Department of Education (DepEd);
- (k) Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE); and
- (l) National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

These agencies are tasked to formulate programs and projects to eliminate VAW based on their mandates as well as develop capability programs for their employees to become more sensitive to the needs of their clients. The Council will also serve as the monitoring body as regards to VAW initiatives.

The Council members may designate their duly authorized representative who shall have a rank not lower than an assistant secretary or its equivalent. These representatives shall attend Council meetings in their behalf, and shall receive emoluments as may be determined by the Council in accordance with existing budget and accounting rules and regulations.

Sec. 40. Mandatory Programs and Services for Victims. – The DSWD, and LGU's shall provide the victims temporary shelters, provide counseling, psycho-social services and /or, recovery, rehabilitation programs and livelihood assistance.

The DOH shall provide medical assistance to victims.

Sec. 41. Counseling and Treatment of Offenders. – The DSWD shall provide rehabilitative counseling and treatment to perpetrators towards learning constructive ways of coping with anger and emotional outbursts and reforming their ways. When necessary, the offender shall be ordered by the Court to submit to psychiatric treatment or confinement.

Sec. 42. Training of Persons Involved in Responding to Violence Against Women and their Children Cases. – All agencies involved in responding to violence against women and their children cases shall be required to undergo education and training to acquaint them with:

- a. the nature, extent and causes of violence against women and their children;
- b. the legal rights of, and remedies available to, victims of violence against women and their children;
- c. the services and facilities available to victims or survivors;
- d. the legal duties imposed on police officers to make arrest and to offer protection and assistance; and
- e. techniques for handling incidents of violence against women and their children that minimize the likelihood of injury to the officer and promote the safety of the victim or survivor.

The PNP, in coordination with LGU's shall establish an education and training program for police officers and barangay officials to enable them to properly handle cases of violence

against women and their children.

Sec. 43. Entitled to Leave. – Victims under this Act shall be entitled to take a paid leave of absence up to ten (10) days in addition to other paid leaves under the Labor Code and Civil Service Rules and Regulations, extendible when the necessity arises as specified in the protection order.

Any employer who shall prejudice the right of the person under this Sec. shall be penalized in accordance with the provisions of the Labor Code and Civil Service Rules and Regulations. Likewise, an employer who shall prejudice any person for assisting a co-employee who is a victim under this Act shall likewise be liable for discrimination.

Sec. 44. Confidentiality. – All records pertaining to cases of violence against women and their children including those in the barangay shall be confidential and all public officers and employees and public or private clinics to hospitals shall respect the right to privacy of the victim. Whoever publishes or causes to be published, in any format, the name, address, telephone number, school, business address, employer, or other identifying information of a victim or an immediate family member, without the latter's consent, shall be liable to the contempt power of the court.

Any person who violates this provision shall suffer the penalty of one (1) year imprisonment and a fine of not more than Five Hundred Thousand pesos (P500,000.00).

Sec. 45. Funding – The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

The Gender and Development (GAD) Budget of the mandated agencies and LGU's shall be used to implement services for victim of violence against women and their children.

Sec. 46. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the DOJ, the NCRFW, the DSWD, the DILG, the DOH, and the PNP, and three (3) representatives from NGOs to be identified by the NCRFW, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act.

Sec. 47. Suppletory Application – For purposes of this Act, the Revised Penal Code and other applicable laws, shall have suppletory application.

Sec. 48. Separability Clause. – If any Sec. or provision of this Act is held unconstitutional or invalid, the other Sec.s or provisions shall not be affected.

Sec. 49. Repealing Clause – All laws, Presidential decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 50. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved: March 08, 2004

VAWC (Violence Against Women and Children) encompasses a range of scenarios where women and children face abuse and mistreatment. Here are various scenarios that illustrate the different forms VAWC can take:

Domestic Violence

1. **Physical Abuse:** A partner regularly hits or physically assaults their spouse.
2. **Emotional Abuse:** A partner consistently belittles, manipulates, and controls their spouse, leading to mental distress.
3. **Financial Abuse:** One partner restricts the other's access to money or financial resources, controlling their financial independence.

Sexual Violence

4. **Marital Rape:** An individual forces their spouse to engage in sexual activity without consent.
5. **Sexual Assault:** A person is coerced or forced into sexual activity without their consent in various settings (e.g., workplace, public space).

Child Abuse

6. **Physical Abuse:** A caregiver inflicts physical harm on a child, such as hitting, kicking, or burning.
7. **Neglect:** A caregiver fails to provide necessary care, including food, shelter, and medical attention, leading to harm or risk to the child's well-being.
8. **Emotional Abuse:** A caregiver continually insults, rejects, or terrorizes a child, causing emotional harm.

Cultural and Societal Violence

9. **Honor-Based Violence:** Individuals are harmed or threatened by family members due to perceived dishonor brought to the family.
10. **Child Marriage:** Young girls are married off before they reach adulthood, often resulting in physical and emotional harm.

Workplace Harassment

11. **Sexual Harassment:** Employees face unwanted sexual advances, inappropriate comments, or other forms of sexual coercion at work.
12. **Bullying:** Employees are subjected to ongoing, aggressive behavior that creates a hostile work environment, often targeted towards women.

Online Abuse

13. **Cyberstalking:** Individuals are harassed or stalked through online platforms, including threats and unwanted communications.
14. **Revenge Porn:** Intimate images or videos are shared without consent to embarrass or coerce the individual depicted.

Systemic Violence

15. **Institutional Discrimination:** Women and children face barriers in accessing justice, healthcare, or education due to discriminatory policies or practices.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

16. **Coercive Control:** An intimate partner uses psychological tactics, including monitoring and isolating their partner, to maintain dominance and control.

Each scenario reflects a different aspect of VAWC, highlighting the multifaceted nature of the issue. Addressing these forms of violence requires comprehensive strategies that encompass legal, social, and psychological support.

Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) is a serious issue, and there are several tips and strategies that can help support women and children affected by it:

1. Education and Awareness:

- Educate communities about the signs of abuse and the resources available.
- Promote gender equality and respect through school programs, community events, and media.

2. Support Services:

- Ensure that victims have access to helplines, counseling, and shelters.
- Provide legal assistance to help victims navigate the justice system.

3. Empowerment:

- Support initiatives that empower women and children through education, job training, and financial independence.
- Encourage self-defense classes and assertiveness training.

4. Safe Spaces:

- Create safe environments in homes, schools, and communities where victims can seek help without fear of retaliation.
- Promote anonymous reporting systems.

5. Policy Advocacy:

- Advocate for stronger laws and policies to protect women and children from violence.
- Support organizations that work to improve legal frameworks and enforcement.

6. Community Engagement:

- Foster a culture of openness and support where people feel comfortable reporting abuse.
- Train community leaders, healthcare providers, and educators to recognize and

respond to signs of abuse.

7. Mental Health Support:

- Provide access to mental health services for survivors to help them recover from trauma.
- Encourage therapy and support groups that cater to their specific needs.

8. Collaboration:

- Work with local authorities, NGOs, and other stakeholders to create comprehensive support systems.
- Share resources and best practices to enhance the effectiveness of interventions.

9. Preventative Measures:

- Promote healthy relationship education and conflict resolution skills from a young age.
- Address root causes of violence, such as substance abuse and socioeconomic disparities.

10. Listening and Validation:

- Listen to and believe victims when they come forward.
- Validate their experiences and provide reassurance that they are not alone.

These strategies can help build a supportive environment for women and children, fostering safety and resilience against violence.

Physical abuse against women by their partners is a grave issue with profound personal and societal implications. This form of domestic violence is not only a violation of human rights but also a deep-seated problem that affects many aspects of a survivor's life. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach involving legal, psychological, social, and medical interventions.

Understanding Physical Abuse

Physical abuse involves any form of violence inflicted upon a person by another, typically characterized by the use of force that causes harm. This can include hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, or using objects to inflict pain. Physical abuse can also lead to serious long-term health consequences, including chronic pain, mental health disorders, and even death.

Immediate Steps to Take

1. **Seek Safety:** The foremost priority for any woman experiencing physical abuse is to ensure her immediate safety. If there is an imminent threat, finding a safe place away from the abuser is crucial. This could involve going to a friend's house, a family member's home, or a designated shelter for survivors of domestic violence.
2. **Contact Emergency Services:** In situations where there is a risk of serious injury or life-

threatening circumstances, contacting emergency services (911 or the local emergency number) is essential. They can provide immediate assistance and ensure that the abuser is removed from the situation if necessary.

3. **Document the Abuse:** Keeping records of the abuse can be important for legal proceedings and medical evaluations. This includes taking photographs of injuries, keeping a journal of incidents, and gathering any evidence related to the abuse. However, this should be done safely and discreetly.
4. **Seek Medical Attention:** Even if injuries seem minor, it is crucial to get a medical examination. A healthcare professional can provide necessary treatment, document injuries, and offer support resources. Additionally, medical records can serve as evidence in legal proceedings.

Legal Protections and Options

1. **Restraining Orders:** Legal protection such as a restraining order (also known as a protection order) can help keep an abuser away from the survivor. This legal document prohibits the abuser from contacting or approaching the survivor and can offer a sense of security.
2. **Legal Aid and Advocacy:** Many organizations provide legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence. They can help with understanding legal rights, filing restraining orders, and navigating the legal system. It is important to seek out these services to ensure proper representation and support.
3. **Reporting to Authorities:** In addition to emergency services, reporting the abuse to local law enforcement can be an important step. Authorities can investigate the situation and take legal action against the abuser.

Psychological and Emotional Support

1. **Counseling and Therapy:** Survivors of physical abuse often experience trauma, anxiety, depression, and other emotional challenges. Seeking counseling or therapy from a licensed mental health professional can provide crucial support in processing and healing from the abuse.
2. **Support Groups:** Joining support groups for survivors of domestic violence can offer a sense of community and understanding. These groups provide a safe space to share experiences, gain insights, and receive support from others who have faced similar situations.
3. **Self-Care:** Practicing self-care is essential for recovery. This includes taking time to relax, engage in activities that bring joy, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Self-care helps rebuild confidence and emotional well-being.

Social and Community Resources

1. **Domestic Violence Shelters and Hotlines:** Numerous organizations and shelters provide temporary housing, legal aid, and emotional support for survivors of domestic violence. Hotlines offer confidential support and can help connect individuals with local resources.
2. **Community Programs:** Community-based programs often provide education, advocacy, and support services for survivors of domestic violence. Engaging with these programs can help survivors access resources and build a support network.

Long-Term Considerations

1. **Creating a Safety Plan:** Developing a comprehensive safety plan is vital for long-term security. This plan should include steps for leaving an abusive situation, safe places to go, and a strategy for managing future encounters with the abuser.
2. **Financial Independence:** Financial abuse is often a component of domestic violence, where the abuser controls or restricts access to money. Working towards financial independence can empower survivors and reduce dependence on the abuser.
3. **Personal Empowerment and Healing:** Recovery from abuse is a process that involves rebuilding one's sense of self-worth and independence. Engaging in activities that promote personal growth and empowerment can support long-term healing and resilience.

Addressing physical abuse against women requires a robust legal framework that both protects victims and holds abusers accountable. The specific laws and legal protections vary by country, but there are several key components that are generally effective in creating a supportive and just legal environment for survivors of domestic violence. Here are some essential elements of laws that should be in place:

1. Domestic Violence Legislation

Definition and Scope: Laws should clearly define domestic violence, including physical, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse. The definition should encompass various forms of violence and abuse to ensure comprehensive protection.

Protection Orders: Legislation should provide for restraining or protection orders that legally prohibit the abuser from contacting or approaching the victim. These orders should be accessible, enforceable, and provide immediate protection.

Criminalization of Abuse: Physical abuse and violence should be criminal offenses with clear penalties. Laws should categorize domestic violence as a serious crime with appropriate sentencing guidelines to deter perpetrators.

2. Victim Protection and Support

Emergency Response: Laws should mandate the provision of emergency services and shelters for victims of domestic violence. This includes access to temporary housing and immediate assistance from law enforcement.

Victim Rights: Legislation should outline the rights of victims, including the right to safety, privacy, and support services. Victims should have access to legal assistance, counseling, and medical care.

Confidentiality and Privacy: Laws should protect the confidentiality of victims' personal information to ensure their safety and prevent further harm or stigmatization.

3. Legal and Judicial Measures

Access to Justice: Laws should ensure that victims have access to the judicial system without facing barriers such as financial constraints or intimidation. Legal aid services should be available for those who cannot afford representation.

Court Procedures: Legal procedures should be designed to protect victims, including provisions

for remote testimony to avoid contact with the abuser and expedited hearings for protection orders.

Mandatory Reporting: In some jurisdictions, professionals such as healthcare providers and social workers may be required to report suspected abuse. This can help ensure that cases of domestic violence are identified and addressed promptly.

4. Prevention and Education

Public Awareness Campaigns: Legislation should support public awareness and education campaigns to inform individuals about domestic violence, available resources, and legal rights.

Training for Law Enforcement and Judiciary: Laws should mandate specialized training for police, judges, and prosecutors on handling domestic violence cases sensitively and effectively. This training should focus on understanding the dynamics of abuse and providing appropriate responses.

5. Support for Survivors

Rehabilitation and Counseling: Legal frameworks should support access to counseling and rehabilitation services for survivors. This includes mental health support and programs aimed at helping survivors rebuild their lives.

Economic Support: Laws should provide for financial assistance or support services to help victims achieve economic independence, especially if financial abuse was a factor in the domestic violence.

Long-Term Planning: Legislation should support programs that assist survivors in creating long-term safety plans, including housing, employment, and personal security.

6. International Standards and Agreements

Alignment with International Standards: National laws should align with international standards and agreements on human rights and domestic violence. This includes adhering to conventions such as the Istanbul Convention, which sets comprehensive standards for preventing and combating violence against women.

Collaboration and Support: International cooperation and support can enhance national efforts to address domestic violence. Countries should collaborate on best practices and share resources to improve legal frameworks and support systems.

I'm really sorry to hear that you're going through this. It's important to seek help and support immediately. In the Philippines, the law that addresses violence against women and children (VAWC) is Republic Act No. 9262. This law provides protection and legal recourse for victims of domestic violence, including physical abuse.

Here are some steps you can take:

1. **Reach Out for Help:** Contact a trusted friend, family member, or a local support organization for immediate assistance.
2. **Report the Incident:** You can report the abuse to local authorities or the police. They are required to assist and protect you.

3. **Legal Protection:** You can seek a Protection Order from the court, which can help ensure your safety.
4. **Seek Professional Support:** Reach out to organizations like the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) or other local women's shelters and support groups for additional help and resources.

Your safety is the most important thing right now. Please take the necessary steps to protect yourself and seek out the support you need.

I'm very sorry to hear about this situation. It's crucial to take immediate action to ensure the safety and well-being of the child. Here are some steps you can take:

1. **Ensure the Child's Safety:** Make sure the child is in a safe environment and remove them from any immediate danger.
2. **Report the Abuse:** Contact local authorities or child protection services to report the incident. In the Philippines, you can report to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) or the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).
3. **Seek Medical Attention:** The child should see a healthcare professional to address any physical or emotional trauma. Medical professionals can also provide evidence of abuse.
4. **Get Legal Assistance:** Contact a lawyer or legal aid organization specializing in child protection to understand the legal options available for the child.
5. **Support the Child:** Provide emotional support and consider engaging a child psychologist or counselor who specializes in trauma and abuse.
6. **Document Everything:** Keep detailed records of the abuse, including dates, times, and any communications or evidence related to the incident.

It's important to act quickly and involve the appropriate authorities and professionals to ensure the child receives the protection and support they need.

Violations of the Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Act can result in various fines and penalties, depending on the specific nature of the offense and the jurisdiction. The VAWC Act is a Philippine law, officially known as Republic Act No. 9262, which addresses violence against women and their children.

Here's a general overview of potential fines and penalties under the VAWC Act:

1. **First Offense:** The penalties for a first-time offense typically include imprisonment, fines, and mandatory counseling or treatment programs. The specific amount of fines can vary,

but they are often set by the court within a range specified by the law.

2. **Subsequent Offenses:** For repeat offenders, the fines and imprisonment terms are generally more severe. Repeat offenses can also lead to additional legal consequences, such as increased fines and longer prison sentences.
3. **Other Penalties:** In addition to fines and imprisonment, the court may impose other penalties such as community service, restraining orders, and custody arrangements.

It's important to consult the specific provisions of the VAWC Act or seek legal advice to get accurate information regarding fines and penalties for particular offenses under this law. The legal framework and exact penalties may also be subject to amendments and updates.

Under the Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Act of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 9262), the imprisonment penalties for various offenses can be as follows:

1. **Physical Violence:** If the offender is found guilty of committing physical violence (e.g., hitting, slapping), they may face imprisonment ranging from **1 month and 1 day to 6 months**.
2. **Sexual Violence:** For offenses involving sexual violence (e.g., sexual assault, harassment), the imprisonment may range from **6 months and 1 day to 12 years**, depending on the severity of the act.
3. **Psychological Violence:** Imprisonment for psychological violence (e.g., threats, intimidation) typically ranges from **1 month and 1 day to 6 months**.
4. **Economic Abuse:** For economic abuse (e.g., controlling finances, withholding money), imprisonment may range from **1 month and 1 day to 6 months**.
5. **Other Violations:** For other violations or multiple offenses, the imprisonment terms can vary and may be compounded with additional penalties. Repeat offenders or cases involving aggravated circumstances may face longer prison terms.

The exact duration of imprisonment can be influenced by various factors, including the specific circumstances of the case, any prior offenses, and whether the offense was committed with aggravating factors. Additionally, courts have discretion in determining the final sentence within the prescribed ranges.

For precise information and legal advice, it's important to consult with a legal expert or refer to the latest amendments and interpretations of the VAWC Act.

Threatening a woman and a child falls under the category of **psychological violence** in the context of the Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Act of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 9262). Psychological violence includes acts that cause emotional or mental harm, such as threats, intimidation, and coercion.

Under the VAWC Act, psychological violence can result in penalties that include imprisonment. The severity of the punishment can vary based on the specific nature and impact of the threats, the offender's prior record, and any other aggravating factors.

In addition to legal penalties, the victim may also seek protection through measures such as restraining orders or protection orders to ensure their safety and well-being. For precise legal guidance and to address specific circumstances, consulting with a legal professional is advisable.

Stalking a woman is a serious offense under various laws, including those related to violence, harassment, and personal safety. In the context of the Philippines and the Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Act (Republic Act No. 9262), stalking can be classified as a form of **psychological violence**.

Under the VAWC Act:

- **Psychological Violence:** Stalking falls under psychological violence, which involves causing mental or emotional harm through threats, intimidation, or repeated harassment. Penalties for psychological violence can include imprisonment ranging from **1 month and 1 day to 6 months**.

Other Relevant Laws:

- **Anti-Stalking Law:** The Philippines does not have a specific anti-stalking law distinct from VAWC. However, stalking behaviors can be prosecuted under general harassment or anti-violence laws.
- **Revised Penal Code:** In some cases, stalking might be prosecuted under provisions related to harassment or threats.

Penalties:

- **Imprisonment:** The length of imprisonment can vary based on the severity of the stalking behavior, any aggravating circumstances, and whether the offender has prior offenses.
- **Protection Orders:** Victims of stalking may also seek protection orders, which can include restraining the offender from contacting or coming near the victim.

For accurate legal advice and to understand the full range of legal options and protections available, it's essential to consult with a legal expert or local law enforcement.

In the Philippines, rape combined with threats to kill if the victim speaks to the public involves multiple serious offenses and carries severe penalties under the law. Here's how these offenses are addressed:

Rape:

- **Rape** is defined under the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines, as amended by Republic Act No. 8353 (the Anti-Rape Law of 1997). The penalties for rape are severe,

ranging from **reclusion perpetua** (imprisonment for 20 years and 1 day to 40 years) to **death** (if the crime was committed with certain aggravating factors, though the death penalty is currently suspended).

Threats to Kill:

- **Threats to Kill:** Threatening the victim to prevent them from speaking out can be classified as a form of **psychological violence** or **intimidation**. Under the VAWC Act (Republic Act No. 9262), such threats would be considered as psychological violence and could result in imprisonment ranging from **1 month and 1 day to 6 months**.

Combined Offenses:

- When rape is combined with threats of murder, the court may consider the threats as an aggravating factor, potentially increasing the severity of the penalties. The combination of rape and death threats can lead to more severe sentences, and the offender may face multiple charges.

Legal Consequences:

- **Criminal Charges:** The offender may face multiple criminal charges, including rape and intimidation or threats.
- **Protection Orders:** Victims can also seek protection orders to ensure their safety and prevent further contact or threats from the offender.

Legal Advice:

For accurate guidance, evidence collection, and legal representation, it's crucial for victims or concerned parties to consult with a legal expert or law enforcement authorities. They can provide support, help navigate the legal process, and ensure that all relevant charges are filed and pursued effectively.

For victims of Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) in the Philippines, seeking legal advice and support is crucial for navigating the legal system and ensuring their safety. Here's a general guide on what steps to take and where to seek legal assistance:

1. Seek Immediate Help

- **Report to Authorities:** Contact the local police or barangay (village) officials to report the incident. They can provide immediate protection and assistance.
- **Medical Attention:** Seek medical care if needed. This is important for both health and legal documentation.

2. Document Evidence

- **Gather Evidence:** Collect and document any evidence of abuse, such as photographs of injuries, threatening messages, or witness statements. This can be critical in legal proceedings.

3. File a Formal Complaint

- **File a Police Report:** Visit the nearest police station to file a formal complaint. The police can assist in initiating legal action.
- **Protection Orders:** Request a Protection Order from the court or barangay officials. This order can prevent the abuser from contacting or coming near the victim.

4. Consult a Legal Professional

- **Find a Lawyer:** Look for a lawyer who specializes in family law or VAWC cases. Legal Aid Offices and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can also provide free or subsidized legal assistance.
- **Legal Advice:** Discuss your case with your lawyer to understand your rights, the legal process, and the best course of action.

5. Reach Out to Support Services

- **NGOs and Support Groups:** Organizations like the Women's Crisis Center, Bantay Bata, and others offer support services, counseling, and legal assistance.
- **Government Agencies:** The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and other government agencies provide support and resources for victims of violence.

6. Follow Legal Procedures

- **Attend Hearings:** If a case is filed, attend all court hearings and comply with legal requirements.
- **Follow Legal Advice:** Work closely with your lawyer to ensure all legal procedures are followed correctly and to protect your rights.

7. Safety Planning

- **Safety Measures:** Develop a safety plan to protect yourself and your children. This may include changing your daily routine, finding a safe place, and keeping emergency contacts.

8. Emotional Support

- **Counseling:** Consider seeking counseling or therapy to deal with the emotional and psychological impact of the abuse.

Resources for Legal Assistance:

- **Public Attorney's Office (PAO):** Provides free legal services to indigent clients.
- **National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW):** Offers support and resources related to women's rights and violence.
- **Barangay Violence Against Women Desk:** Assists in addressing domestic violence issues at the local level.

Victims of VAWC should prioritize their safety and seek professional help to navigate the complexities of legal proceedings and personal recovery.

Sa sitwasyon nga imong gihisgutan, daghan mga aspeto ang kinahanglan tan-awon, ug ang mga legal nga lakang mag-agad sa lokasyon ug lokal nga balaod. Apan, kasagaran, ang mga sumusunod nga aspeto mahimong imong tagdon:

1. **Adultery:** Sa Pilipinas, ang adultery (pag-abuso sa kasal) usa ka krimen ilawom sa Article 333 sa Revised Penal Code. Ang lalaki nga nagapuyo uban sa imong asawa, nga mahimong tawgon nga "coconspirator," mahimong makasuhan ug legal nga kaso sa kriminal.
2. **Civil Case for Annulment or Legal Separation:** Kung gusto nimo nga buwag sa imong asawa, mahimo kang magsumiter ug kaso alang sa annulment o legal separation. Ang annulment magpasabot nga ang kasal gi-declare nga wala'y bisa, samtang ang legal separation magpasabot nga bisan dili na magpuyo sa samang balay, ang kasal nagpabilin.
3. **Property and Financial Matters:** Kung adunay mga property o kwarta nga naapektuhan sa sitwasyon, kinahanglan nimo tan-awon ang mga legal nga pamaagi alang sa pag-apod-apod sa mga butang.
4. **Consult a Lawyer:** Importante nga magpakonsulta ka sa usa ka abogado nga eksperto sa family law aron makuha ang tukmang tambag ug aksyon base sa imong sitwasyon.

Ang usa ka abogado makahatag sa imong tukmang legal nga tambag ug magtabang sa pag-andam sa mga dokumento ug pormal nga mga lakang.

Ang **VAWC** o **Violence Against Women and Children** usa ka balaod nga naglatid sa mga lakang aron protektahan ang mga kababayan-an ug mga bata gikan sa pagpanamastamas, pang-abuso, ug kasamok. Sa Pilipinas, kini naglakip sa mga pamaagi sa pag-imbestiga, paghatag tabang, ug pagpunish sa mga nagbuhat sa maong mga krimen.

Sa Bisaya, ang VAWC mahimo nimong tawagon nga "**Pagpanglutos sa Kababayan-an ug mga Bata**" ug kini naglalaman sa mga aksyon ug mga regulasyon aron mahatagan ug hustisya ang mga biktima ug mapugngan ang pagkahitabo sa ingon nga mga kahimtang.

penalidad alang sa krimen nga rape. Ang RA 8353 naglakip sa mga sumusunod:

1. **Pag-definition sa Rape** - Naghatag kini ug klaro nga paghubit sa unsay gitawag nga rape ug giunsa kini pag-aplikar sa balaod.
2. **Pagpalapad sa mga Insidente sa Rape** - Giila kini ang mga sitwasyon nga dili lang limitado sa physical nga pag-atake, kundi naglakip usab sa mga pamaagi sa sexual nga pag-abuso.
3. **Pagpalig-on sa mga Proteksyon sa mga Biktima** - Naghatag kini ug mga pamaagi aron masiguro nga makadawat ug proteksyon ug suporta ang mga biktima sa rape.

Kini nga balaod nagtumong sa paghatag ug hustisya sa mga biktima sa rape ug sa paghatag ug lig-on nga penalidad sa mga nagbuhat sa maong krimen.

Ang **RA 7610** o **Republic Act No. 7610** mao ang balaod nga nailhan usab nga "**Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act.**" Kini nga balaod nagtumong sa paghatag proteksyon sa mga bata gikan sa abuso, eksploitasyon, ug diskriminasyon. Ang RA 7610 naglatid sa mga mosunod:

1. **Pagprotekta sa mga Bata** - Naghatag kini ug mga pamaagi ug regulasyon aron mapanalipdan ang mga bata gikan sa pisikal, emosyonal, ug sexual nga pag-abuso.
2. **Pagpugong sa Exploitasyon** - Naglatid kini sa mga lakang aron mapugngan ang mga pamaagi sa pag-exploit sa mga bata, lakip ang child labor ug sexual exploitation.
3. **Paghatag sa mga Proteksyon ug Suporta** - Naghatag kini ug mga pamaagi alang sa mga biktima sa abuso ug eksploitasyon aron makadawat ug suporta ug proteksyon gikan sa gobyerno ug mga institusyon.

Ang RA 7610 naglakip usab sa mga penalidad alang sa mga magbuhat sa pag-abuso ug eksploitasyon sa mga bata, ug nagtumong sa paghatag ug lig-on nga proteksyon sa ilang mga katungod.

Ang **RA 11313** o **Republic Act No. 11313** mao ang "**Safe Spaces Act**" nga gisugdan niadtong 2019. Kini nga balaod naghatag ug proteksyon sa mga tawo, ilabi na sa mga kababayan-an, gikan sa sexual harassment ug iba pang mga porma sa pang-abuso sa mga pampubliko ug pribadong lugar. Ang mga key points sa RA 11313 mao ang mga sumusunod:

1. **Paglikay sa Sexual Harassment** - Ang balaod naglatid sa mga regulasyon ug pamaagi aron mapugngan ang sexual harassment sa mga pampubliko ug pribadong lugar, lakip ang opisina, eskwelahan, kalsada, ug uban pang lugar.
2. **Pagpugong sa Gender-Based Sexual Harassment** - Nagtumong kini sa paghatag ug proteksyon gikan sa mga porma sa sexual harassment nga nakabase sa gender.
3. **Paghatag sa mga Pamaagi ug Protokol** - Naglatid kini ug mga pamaagi sa pagreport ug pag-imbestiga sa mga insidente sa sexual harassment, ug sa paghatag ug suporta sa mga biktima.
4. **Paghatag sa Edukasyon ug Awareness** - Nagtumong kini sa pag-promote sa awareness ug edukasyon sa publiko bahin sa mga isyu sa sexual harassment ug mga pamaagi sa pagprotekta sa mga tawo.

Ang RA 11313 naglakip usab sa mga penalidad alang sa mga magbuhat sa sexual harassment ug naghatag ug mga lakang aron masiguro ang kaluwasan ug dignidad sa tanan, labi na sa mga kababayan-an.

Ang **RA 9262**, nga nailhan usab nga "**Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004**", mao ang balaod nga naglatid ug nagprotekta sa mga kababayen-an ug mga bata gikan sa pangulata ug uban pang porma sa pang-abuso sa mga partners. Ang RA 9262 naghatag ug mga pamaagi ug regulasyon aron mapugngan ang pag-abuso ug mapanalipdan ang mga biktima sa domestic violence.

Mga Key Points sa RA 9262:

1. **Pag-definition sa Pagpangulata** - Ang balaod naglatid sa mga porma sa violence, lakip ang physical, psychological, sexual, ug economic abuse.
2. **Proteksyon sa mga Biktima** - Naghatag kini ug mga pamaagi sa paghatag ug proteksyon sa mga biktima, sama sa pag-issue sa barangay protection order ug court protection order.
3. **Paghatag ug Suporta** - Ang RA 9262 naglatid sa mga pamaagi sa paghatag ug suporta sa mga biktima, lakip ang medical, legal, ug psychological assistance.
4. **Pagprotekta sa mga Bata** - Giila niini ang mga bata nga biktima sa violence ug naghatag ug mga pamaagi aron masiguro ang ilang proteksyon ug kahimtang.

Ang RA 9262 nagtumong sa paghatag ug lig-on nga proteksyon ug hustisya sa mga kababayen-an ug mga bata nga biktima sa domestic violence.

Sa Bisaya, ang "**stalker**" mahimong itawag nga "**manghuhubad**" o "**mang-uyog**". Kini nagpasabot sa usa ka tawo nga sige'g sunod-sunod o pangita sa uban nga tawo, kasagaran sa dili maayo nga paagi ug makahatag ug kakulba o kasamok sa target.

Ang balaod nga naglatid ug nagprotekta sa mga biktima sa rape ug sexual assault sa Pilipinas mao ang **RA 8353**, nga gitawag usab nga "**The Anti-Rape Law of 1997**." Kini nga balaod naglatid sa mga pamaagi ug penalidad para sa mga krimen nga rape ug uban pang mga porma sa sexual assault.

Gawas sa RA 8353, ang **RA 11313** o "**Safe Spaces Act**" usab naglatid ug mga regulasyon nga nagprotekta sa mga biktima gikan sa sexual harassment, nga mahimong usa sa mga aspeto sa rape ug sexual assault.

Kung maka-kita ka ug babae nga gipangulata sa iyang bana, importante nga himuon ang mga mosunod nga lakang aron matabangan ug maprotektahan ang biktima:

1. **Siguraduhon ang Kaluwasan:** Ang labing importante mao ang kaluwasan sa biktima. Kung ikaw o ang biktima nag-atubang sa direkta nga panganib, pangitaa ang luwas nga dapit o tawaga ang mga otoridad. Ayaw pag-apil o pagdali-dali kung mahimo kini magpasamot sa sitwasyon.
2. **Tawaga ang Kapulisan:** I-report dayon ang insidente sa mga otoridad pinaagi sa pagtawag sa kapulisan. Ang pagreport sa kapulisan makatabang sa paghatag sa proteksyon sa biktima ug sa pagkuha sa legal nga aksyon batok sa nagbuhat sa krimen. Siguraduhon nga klaro ug tukma ang impormasyon nga imong ihatag sa mga otoridad.

3. **Ibutang ang mga Detalye:** Kung mahimo, kuhaa ang mga detalye sa sitwasyon sama sa oras, lugar, ug mga detalye sa mga tawo nga naapil. Kini makatabang sa mga imbestigador sa pag-assess sa sitwasyon ug sa pagkuha sa husto nga aksyon.
4. **Paghatag ug Moral ug Emosyonal nga Suporta:** Kung duol ka sa biktima, hatagi siya ug moral ug emosyonal nga suporta. Ipahibalo sa biktima nga siya dili nag-inusara ug adunay mga pamaagi nga makatabang sa iyang sitwasyon.
5. **Tawaga ang mga Serbisyo sa Suporta:** Aduna mga organisasyon ug ahensya nga naghatag ug suporta sa mga biktima sa domestic violence. Tawaga ang mga serbisyo nga makatabang sa legal, medical, ug psychosocial needs sa biktima. Sa Pilipinas, ang Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) ug mga lokal nga women's desks sa kapulisan mahimong makatabang.
6. **I-report sa Barangay:** Ang pag-report sa barangay captain o barangay council mahimong usa sa mga paagi aron mahatagan ug interim nga proteksyon ang biktima ug aron mahatagan siya ug tabang sa local level.
7. **Pagpangayo ug Legal nga Tambag:** Ang biktima mahimo nga magpangayo ug legal nga tambag gikan sa mga abogado nga espesyalista sa mga kaso sa domestic violence. Ang legal nga tambag makatabang sa biktima sa pag-assess sa iyang mga kapilian ug sa pagprotekta sa iyang mga katungod.
8. **Pag-monitor sa Sitwasyon:** Siguraduhon nga ang biktima ug ang sitwasyon gi-monitor ug gi-assist sa mga otoridad ug mga organisasyon sa suporta. Ang pag-follow-up makatabang sa paghatag ug dugang nga proteksyon ug pagsiguro nga ang biktima mahatagan ug husto nga pagtagad.

Sa pagtabang sa biktima sa domestic violence, kinahanglan nga magbantay sa imong kaluwasan ug sundon ang mga legal nga pamaagi aron makahatag ug epektibong tabang ug proteksyon.

Kung adunay tawo nga mag-sunod-sunod nimo mahimo nimo buhaton ang mga mosunod:

1. **Pangitaa ang Tabang sa Authorities:** Kung ang pagsunod-sunod o pagpadala ug mga mensahe naghatag na ug kakulba o kalibog, kinahanglan nimo nga i-report kini sa mga autoridad. Pwedeng moadto sa pulis o mag-file ug report sa cybercrime unit.
2. **I-block ang Contact:** Kung posible, i-block ang contact sa tawo nga magpadala ug sobra kaayo nga mga mensahe. Daghang mga social media platforms ug messaging apps ang naghatag ug opsyon sa pag-block sa mga users.
3. **I-save ang mga Ebidensya:** Siguruha nga i-save ug i-record ang tanan nga mga mensahe o ebidensya nga magpakita sa pag-sunod-sunod. Kini makatabang kung mag-file ka ug kaso o mag-report sa authorities.
4. **Kontaka ang Platform Provider:** Kung ang mga mensahe gipadala pinaagi sa social media o messaging apps, kontaka ang support team sa platform aron i-report ang harassment ug pangayoa ang ilang tabang.
5. **Seek Legal Advice:** Kung kinahanglan, pangitaa ang tambag sa usa ka abogado para sa

legal nga mga lakang nga mahimo nimo buhaton aron maprotektahan ang imong kaugalingon.

Pagbantay sa imong personal nga seguridad ug siguruha nga magkuha ug angay nga aksyon aron maprotektahan ang imong kaugalingon gikan sa dili maayong panglihok.

Kung ang imong asawa magpahimulos o magpamalos sa imo, ang **Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC)** usa ka balaod nga naglatid sa mga lakang nga mahimo nimo buhaton aron maprotektahan ang imong kaugalingon ug mga bata. Ang mga lakang nga pwede nimo buhaton mao ang mga sumusunod:

1. **Pag-report sa Authorities:** I-report ang insidente sa lokal nga pulis. Ang VAWC naglatid sa mga pamaagi sa pag-imbestiga ug paghatag ug proteksyon sa mga biktima sa domestic violence.
2. **Pagkuha ug Barangay Protection Order:** Pwedeng mag-aplikar ka ug barangay protection order (BPO) nga maghatag ug temporaryo nga proteksyon gikan sa imong asawa, sama sa paglimitar sa ilang pagduol o pagpakig-uban.
3. **Pagkuha ug Court Protection Order:** Kung kinahanglan, pwede ka mag-aplikar ug court protection order (CPO) nga maghatag ug mas lig-on nga proteksyon ug mga pamaagi sa pagpatuman sa imong mga katungod.
4. **Seek Help from Support Services:** Pangitaa ang tabang sa mga support services sama sa counseling, legal assistance, ug mga shelter nga naghatag ug suporta sa mga biktima sa domestic violence.
5. **Document the Abuse:** I-record ang tanan nga mga insidente sa pang-abuso, lakip ang mga petsa, oras, ug mga detalye, aron kini mahimong ebidensya sa pag-report o legal nga aksyon.
6. **Consult a Lawyer:** Pangitaa ang tambag sa usa ka abogado aron masabtan ang imong mga katungod ug mga legal nga pamaagi nga mahimo nimong buhaton.

Ang VAWC naghatag ug lig-on nga mga pamaagi aron maprotektahan ang mga biktima sa domestic violence ug siguruha nga makadawat sila ug hustisya ug suporta.

- Thank you, you're welcome
- I really appreciate it, it was my pleasure
- Thanks for the help, happy to assist
- Thanks for your quick response, anytime
- I'm grateful for your assistance, glad to be of service
- Goodbye, have a great day
- Farewell, take care
- See you next time, looking forward to it
- Catch you later, definitely
- It was nice talking to you, have a wonderful day