

ROLE OF FRONTLINE WORKERS

*WHEN WORKING WITH WOMEN WITH
LEGAL ISSUES*

YOUR ROLE

FRONT LINE WORKERS CAN ASSIST WOMEN BY:

- ▶ Determine the type of legal assistance that is needed
- ▶ Connect her with Lawyer or Legal Services that have the skills to address clients needs
- ▶ Assisting her to determine their legal status if she doesn't know
- ▶ Clarifying legal jargon
- ▶ Connecting her with resources

EXPLAIN THE NEXT STEPS TO YOUR CLIENT

Include all individuals who will be involved in the process so they are informed

- ▶ Use simple and clear language
 - ▶ Seek assistance from LAWYERS and other Legal professionals
 - ▶ Provide clients with resources such as online information

ASSIST CLIENT TO DETERMINE WHAT KIND OF LEGAL ISSUES ARE INVOLVED

WHAT KIND OF LAWYER WILL YOUR CLIENT NEED?

- ▶ IMMIGRATION ISSUES – conditions regarding her status and the conditions of her stay in Canada
- ▶ CRIMINAL LAW ISSUES – potential criminal charges against an abuser, what are the consequences?
- ▶ FAMILY LAW ISSUES – Child support, Spousal support etc

DETERMINE HER LEGAL STATUS IN CANADA

- ▶ FIRST – Ask for any document they may have
 - ▶ If they do not have documents or there is any doubt regarding the validity of the documents
 - ▶ Contact an immigration lawyer for advice

CLARIFY LEGAL JARGON

WHAT IS A PROTECTION ORDER?

“The protection order can be to protect you or any other family member who's at risk of family violence” – Law Services Society

*consult a Lawyer or legal services to apply for a protection order

CLARIFY LEGAL JARGON

WHAT IS A PEACE BOND?

A peace bond is also a protection and is meant to protect one person from another. All protection orders list conditions set by a judge for one person to follow. Usually they tell that person to have no contact (or limited) contact with the person being protected.” – Law Services Society

You can apply by contacting the RCMP directly, you do not need a lawyer.

CLARIFY LEGAL JARGON

WHAT IS A CONDUCT ORDER?

A type of order intended to help the court manage the people involved in a court process and encourage dispute resolution under the *FAMILY LAW ACT*

CONNECT HER WITH *RESOURCES*

HOW CAN YOUR CLIENT ACCESS LEGAL SERVICES?

- ▶ Use community contacts to get referrals to lawyers with a good reputation for the particular service your client needs
- ▶ LEGAL SERVICES SOCIETY
- ▶ Victoria JUSTICE ACCESS CENTRE
- ▶ DUTY COUNSEL (FDC)
- ▶ CLICKLAW BC

Legal Services Society

1-866-577-2525

PROVIDES INFORMATION ON
LEGAL AID SERVICES

OFFERS LEGAL INFORMATION TO
LOW INCOME FAMILIES

- Limited legal advice
- Self-help and information services
- Dispute resolution and mediation options
- Community resources and agencies
- Free publications

Victoria Justice Access Centre

225 - 850 Burdett St, Victoria
250-356-7012

INFORMATION AND SERVICES IN FAMILY AND CIVIL LAW

- SELF-HELP AND
INFORMATION SERVICES
- DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND
MEDIATION OPTIONS
- LIMITED LEGAL ADVICE
- COMMUNITY RESOURCES
AND AGENCIES
- FREE PUBLICATIONS
- COURSES AND
PRESENTATIONS

Duty Counsel

850 Burdett St, Victoria
250-356-7035

Lawyers AT COURTHOUSES paid by
Legal Aid who can help people with
low income with:

immigration law

family law,

OR criminal law problems

Can provide

legal advice

Assistance with forms and
documents

DOES not

take on cases

represent clients at court

Legal Clinics in the community

LEGAL CLINICS ARE
OFFERED BY AGENCIES
SUCH AS:

- VIRCS
- ICA
- TAPS



DANGERS
SPECIFIC TO
IMMIGRANT
WOMEN



CASE
SCENARIOS

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

- ▶ **INSTRUCTIONS TO PARTICIPANTS ON CASE SCENARIOS**
- ▶ **PART I-** PLEASE GO INTO GROUPS OF 5 INDIVIDUALS
- ▶ **PART II -**DISCUSSION AMONG GROUPS (10 MINUTES)
- ▶ Please take 10 minutes to review Case Scenarios provided with your group and list the main legal areas of concern and answer the questions assigned to the case scenario
- ▶ **PART III** - Please choose one person in your group to engage in feedbacks and posing questions

CONCLUSION

- ▶ What are the main topics you see in these case studies?
- ▶ What would be the first thing you would do in situations like those in the case scenarios?
- ▶ What would be the most common errors one could make when dealing with situations such as those in the case scenarios?

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SERVICES

LARGE GROUP BRAINSTORM & DISCUSSION

REFERENCES

- ▶ Family Law in British Columbia. (n.d.). *Family Law Protection Orders* Retrieved from http://familylaw.lss.bc.ca/resources/fact_sheets/familyLawProtectionOrders.php#whatisaprotectionorder
- ▶ Legal Aid BC (March 2013) *For Your Protection, Peace Bonds and Family Law Protection Orders* Retrieved from <http://legalaid.bc.ca/resources/pdfs/pubs/For-Your-Protection-eng.pdf>
Available in Chinese (simplified), Chinese (traditional), French and Punjabi
<http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca/resources/publications/pub.php?pub=20>

REFERENCES

- ▶ Legal Services Society (n.d.) *Duty Counsel Lawyers for Family Law Matters* Retrieved from http://lss.bc.ca/legal_aid/familyDutyCounsel.php also
- ▶ Legal Services Society (July 2011) *Family Duty Counsel* Retrieved from <http://lss.bc.ca/assets/legalAid/FDCPoster.pdf>
- ▶ Family Law in British Columbia (n.d) *Justice Access Centre (Vancouver, Victoria, and Nanaimo)* Retrieved from <http://familylaw.lss.bc.ca/help/jacSelfHelpAndInfoServices.php>
- ▶ Province of BC (n.d) *Justice Access Centres* Retrieved from <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/about-bcs-justice-system/jac>

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