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## SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

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When people with disabilities try to escape abuse, they may face a number of risks. Some of the major risks may include:

- not being able to contact or get to service providers;
- lack of accessible transportation;
- lack of affordable and accessible housing;
- difficulties with communication; and
- a general lack of understanding about disabilities among the general public that might make it hard to get help.

Some people may be threatened with losing their caregiver if they get help or end the relationship. They may fear that this loss could result in them being placed in an institution or nursing home.

Sometimes, people who are abused become disabled as a result of the domestic violence they experience. There will be many challenges and changes that they will have to deal with. Disabilities resulting from abuse can range from actual physical disabilities to more hidden problems, like head injuries, spinal cord injuries, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

For more information, visit the Barrier Free Living website: [bit.ly/BFLNYC](http://bit.ly/BFLNYC).

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### **IMMIGRANT VICTIMS**

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An immigrant is someone who has moved to the United States from another country. The terms “documented” and “undocumented” refer to documents (papers) which show the legal status one has in the United States. Undocumented immigrants are sometimes labeled as “illegal aliens”—this is generally considered an offensive term. Domestic violence victims who are also immigrants face greater challenges when they are undocumented and controlled by an abusive spouse.

The agency that handles immigration is the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). As an immigrant victim of domestic violence, you should never call USCIS directly. You should get an attorney who specializes in immigration and domestic violence to assist you. Your attorney can help you contact USCIS if necessary. Contact your domestic violence program to find an attorney.

You have the right to live free from violence whether you are documented or undocumented.

## SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

- Your abuser may have told you that getting help would get you in trouble. Do not let those threats stop you from seeking help. The police are required to help you.
- If you are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking, you may be able to get legal status in the United States through special visas available to victims of crime.
- Whether you have legal status in this country or not, you have the right to interpretation and translation services. For example, the NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline (1-800-942-6906) can help people in up to 120 languages.
- Even if you are currently undocumented, you have the right to:
  - call the police;
  - use domestic violence and rape crisis services;
  - apply for emergency Medicaid and victim assistance funds;
  - receive treatment in emergency rooms;
  - seek an order of protection; and
  - apply for legal residency status.

**Regardless of immigration status, you have a right to safety.**

For more information, visit the Asista website: [bit.ly/ASISTA](http://bit.ly/ASISTA). More resources are listed in the back of this booklet.

**1-800-942-6906**  
**NYS Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline**

English & español, Multi-Language Accessibility  
National Relay Service for Deaf or Hard of Hearing: 711

*CONFIDENTIAL*

*24 HRS/7 DAYS*

**In NYC: 311 or 1-800-621-HOPE (4673)**

**TDD: 1-866-604-5350**