



Domestic Violence

In the event of a disclosure of domestic violence, confirm if there are instance(s) of violence:

- Who has committed the violence, and against whom – Do the police/paramedics need to be called (emergency situation)?
- Are there children present? Have they been, or are they in danger of being the victims of violence?
 - » If yes, Children's services and police need to be notified immediately.
 - » If not, then an assessment of the risk/threat level is necessary to determine if they need to be removed right away or not. The Constituent Group (CG) can participate in providing temporary shelter, but Children's services and the police are the ones who need to do this assessment, not the Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) or CG.
- If there is not an emergent situation, contact your SAH as soon as possible. Your SAH will notify IRCC and support the follow up on the status/situation of the newcomers.
- A next step (non-emergency) would be to start contacting shelters/support services for referrals, support and or explanation of services available to the newcomers in the midst of crisis. Resources like telephone help lines, medical services, local Sexual Assault centres, Victims services (See Resources listed below on Page 3).
- The SAH and CG should seek to assist/support in making plans, appointments and or direct connections/introductions with those supportive services.
 - » SAH needs to ensure their CG is aware of the avenues of support available to them, and to the newcomers.
 - » SAH needs to ensure the CG is not trying to take on pieces of work that should be referred to professionals.
- Is it possible to work with both parties/sides? If not, then the priority goes to women and children.
- The SAH needs to ensure that the privacy and confidentiality of the newcomers is maintained. The SG should not be sharing any incident information in the wider community. If reasonable/possible/common sense, limit the number of people in the CG who are aware of and directly involved in assisting with this particular situation.

MCC will ask you to fill in an incident report, outlining the details of what has transpired.

Marital Separation

First, reach out to your Sponsorship Agreement Holder. Your SAH will reach out to Immigration for additional support as needed.

Depending on the specific details and context, if there is a breakdown, it could be considered a no-fault breakdown. Here is a brief guideline from Immigration that can be followed in cases of marital separation.

IP3 section 51.11 Marital or couple separation: "In situations where the family undergoes marital or household separation, the sponsoring group is not held responsible for supporting two separate households. The sponsor is expected to continue to support the household with the higher number of people. The other household is to be processed for breakdown and referred to a new sponsoring group, the RAP or social assistance."

Step 1

Is for IRCC to confirm that both sides will be supported financially and otherwise until the situation can be fully resolved.

Step 2

If possible, please provide contact information for the refugee so Immigration may assess the refugee's needs. Please assess the needs of both refugees yourself and remember to keep track of all efforts you have made to help both sides.

Step 3

Before a marital breakdown can be declared, please provide a court order/separation agreement/Stat Declaration (example below) in order to determine which is the bigger of the two family units.

Step 4

Make a reasonable effort to locate a new sponsoring group for the smaller household, which will no longer be supported by the group after the Marital Breakdown is declared.

Step 5

Immigration will issue a No Fault Breakdown Letter/Statement of Responsibility to the Sponsor and the refugee. They will proceed as follows,

- » **New sponsor is not located:** Prepare the client copy of the Breakdown Letter and refer the client to local Social Services. If the client is a SAH or CG client and local Social Services are refused, send the case to National Head Quarters for possible RAP approval.
- » **New sponsor is located:** New sponsor submits the required paperwork and assumes responsibility for the refugee.

Resources

Abuse is Wrong in Any Language (Resource for immigrant women suffering abuse)

<https://settlement.org/ontario/legal-services/courts/courts-in-ontario/abuse-is-wrong-in-any-language/>

Access to Women Abuse Services by Arab-Speaking Muslim Women in London

http://www.learningtoendabuse.ca/sites/default/files/Final-AccessToWomenAbuseServicesbyArabSpeakingMuslimWomeninLondon_001.pdf

Family Violence Prevention Resources

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/health-promotion/stop-family-violence/prevention-resource-centre/women.html>

Handling a Client's Disclosure of Domestic Violence Webinar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=804CcQD9HyA>

Knowing Your Legal Rights – Available in multiple languages

<https://yourlegalrights.on.ca/resources-language/146?page=4>

Legal Aid Ontario

https://www.legalaid.on.ca/en/getting/type_domesticviolence.asp

Locate Your Nearest Children's Aid Society

<http://www.oacas.org/childrens-aid-child-protection/locate-a-childrens-aid-society/>

Self Help Booklet for Men facing crisis and displacement

<https://publications.iom.int/books/self-help-booklet-men-facing-crisis-and-displacement-0>

Services for Newcomers and refugees – Interpreters for Domestic/Sexual Violence

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/services-newcomers-and-refugees>

What do Immigrants and Refugees need to know about domestic abuse?

<https://settlement.org/ontario/health/family-health/domestic-abuse/what-do-immigrants-and-refugees-need-to-know-about-domestic-abuse/>