DO’S AND DON’TS FOR BATTERED IMMIGRANT WOMEN

DO’S:

• Inform her of V.A.WA. and refer her to appropriate services.

• Give her information on local/national resources for help with this process.

• Resources should include agencies/contacts that help with orders of protection, safety planning, legal assistance, advocacy, shelter, counseling, and medical care.

• Encourage her to collect any documentation she may have re: marriage and birth certificates, documentation of injuries/abuse, etc.

• Provide supportive, respectful, and validating attitude.

• Provide reassurance that she deserves to be treated well and that help is available.

• Be aware that she may perceive you as an authority figure and be distrustful and afraid

• Have an awareness that what may seem like an option may not be for her based on culture, resources, etc.

DON’TS:

• Don’t turn her into ICE or Border Patrol or use them for translation assistance

• Don’t use suspected abuser, or other family members for translation assistance

• Don’t call her “illegal” or “alien”

• Don’t criticize or lecture.

• Don’t overwhelm her with information.

• Don’t call law enforcement unless she requests it. (Unless required to do so, as medical personnel treating material injuries, mandated reporting, etc)

• Don’t blame her for her situation.

• Don’t doubt her reports or give her the third degree.

• Don’t put words in her mouth or make assumptions.