

Navigating the Legal System as Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence must navigate the legal system to attain safety and stability, yet they encounter many challenges along the way.

The family court and the criminal court don't communicate with each other...I feel like at a disadvantaged place.

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Age 34

Criminal justice system

Property law

High fees

Family court

Mediation

Victim services

Legal aid

Custody

Uninformed

IPV consists of nonphysical control as well as physical abuse. Survivors report that the legal system is uninformed about non-physical abuse tactics, hindering the recognition of abusers' harm.

Traumatizing

Survivors describe their experiences with the legal system as negative, overwhelming, and sometimes traumatizing.

Costs

Legal proceedings consume survivors' time and resources, often forcing them to sacrifice in areas like counseling and education.



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