

APPENDIX B: Glossary of Terms

ACTFL: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Certified Testing Program	A rigorous training process to certify ACTFL testers, highly specialized language professionals who have a demonstrated ability to consistently elicit ratable speech samples and consistently rate samples with a high degree of reliability.
ASL: American Sign Language	A visual-spatial language used by the Deaf community in the United States and English-speaking parts of Canada.
CAT: Convention Against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	An international convention adopted in 1984, which bans torture without exception. The convention establishes the UN Committee against Torture, defines torture, and requires states to take effective legal action to prevent and criminalize torture.
CERD: International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination	An international convention adopted in 1965 that provides states with measures to eliminate racial discrimination. States party to the convention must pledge to refrain from acts or practice of racial discrimination against individuals, groups of persons or institutions, oppose racial discrimination by persons or organizations, review government, national and local laws which create or perpetuate racial discrimination, and encourage integrationist or multiracial movements.
CPS: Child Protection Services	The law gives Child Protection Services (CPS) in each county the authority and responsibility to investigate reports of abuse or neglect to children when the perpetrator is a person in the child’s family or household, or in a licensed day care or foster home. As part of its assessment, CPS also determines if child protective services are needed. If needed, CPS will place a child in an appropriate foster home.
Domestic Violence	“Domestic violence is the use of force or threats of force by a husband or boyfriend for the purpose of coercing and intimidating a woman into submission. This violence can take the form of pushing, hitting, choking, slapping, kicking, burning, or stabbing.” U.N. Ctr. For Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, Strategies for Confronting Domestic Violence: A Resource Manual at 7, U.N. Doc. ST/CSDHA/20 (1993)

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ICCPR: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	An international covenant, adopted in 1966, which protects basic civil and political rights of individuals and nations. Rights enunciated therein include the right to self-determination, equality before the law, the right to privacy, freedom of assembly, and freedom of expression.
IIRIRA: Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996	Legislation which increases criminal penalties for immigration-related offenses, authorizes an increase in enforcement personnel, and enhances enforcement authority. Certain provisions of the Act are designed to increase the presence of immigration authorities (now the USCIS) and border enforcement, to reorganize the removal process for inadmissible and deportable aliens and place restrictions on the eligibility of aliens for public benefits.
LEP: Limited English Proficient	Individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write, or understand English.
MFIP: Minnesota Family Investment Program	MFIP provides cash and food assistance, employment and training services and related support and transitional services to eligible low-income families.
OFP: Order for Protection	An Order for Protection is a document issued by a court to help protect individuals and their children from harassment or abuse by their partners.
Removal	The expulsion of an alien from the United States. This expulsion may be based on grounds of inadmissibility or deportability under the Immigration and Nationality Act.
RID: Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf	The Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc., (RID) is a national non-profit organization, providing sign language interpreting/transliterating services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
UDHR: Universal Declaration of Human Rights	Drafted by the United Nations General Assembly in reaction to the atrocities of WWII, the UDHR was the first international statement to address the idea and importance of human rights and remains a charter of the human rights movement.
USCIS: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services	Formerly known as the INS, the USCIS is responsible for the administration of immigration and naturalization adjudication and development of immigration services policies and priorities. Services include the adjudication of immigration status and naturalization petitions, as well as the processing of asylum and refugee applications.

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VAWA: Violence Against Women Act	In 1994, the U.S. Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act to strengthen the law enforcement response to domestic violence, to strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, to promote education concerning domestic violence and to provide immigration relief to immigrant victims of domestic violence married to a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. This relief includes permitting immigrant victims of domestic violence to self-petition for immigration status (without the support of their abusive spouses as usually required) and cancellation of removal (formally referred to as deportation). VAWA provides also that domestic violence offenses (including misdemeanor offenses) and violations of protection orders are deportable offenses.
VSC: Vermont Service Center	One of four adjudication processing centers in the United States, the Vermont Service Center (VSC) of the USCIS adjudicates a variety of applications and petitions for immigration benefits filed by battered women as provided for in the Immigration and Nationality Act.
VTVPA: Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act	An act passed in 2000 to combat trafficking in persons, a contemporary manifestation of slavery whose victims are predominantly women and children, to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers, and to protect victims of trafficking and other forms of violence including battering.
WISH: Women Immigrant Safe Harbor Act	A bill introduced in 2001 to address the harsh effect cutbacks of certain federal benefits had on immigrant women. The WISH Act is a vital component of a three part package of legislation that seeks to restore certain lifesaving benefits such as Medicaid, Food Stamps and TANF to vulnerable immigrant populations who are victims of domestic abuse.