

Some Concepts about Domestic Violence

Q1-1: Why should we work together for preventing domestic violence?

A1-1: It is true for everyone that the family is the source of our happiness, but even with the most intimate family member, disputes or conflicts sometimes are unavoidable because of our different viewpoints. The key for resolving disputes or conflict is mutual respect; we have to respect every family member as an independent person and avoid using any inappropriate language or mental or physical violence to harm our family members. We have to respect each other, to express our ideas calmly, and to analyze matters rationally to solve problems together.

Nobody has the right to treat others with violence, and that is the foundation of mutual respect. When facing family conflicts, we hope that each of us, regardless of our gender and age, can follow the principle of respecting each other, which is the key for maintaining a good family relationship.

Zero domestic violence is the goal we strive for on an ongoing basis; nevertheless, such a goal cannot be attained instantaneously. We need to solve the problem from various levels, from the individual and the family to the community or even the entire society, and with various approaches, such as education and finance. Admittedly, it is hard for the government to reach every corner; we need assistance and information from warmhearted relatives, friends, neighbors, and community volunteers are important for resolving every potential domestic threat.

Q1-2: What is domestic violence?

A1-2: According to Article 2 of Domestic Violence Prevention Act, any member of the previous or current family (including the spouses, siblings, parents, children, and people within the 4th degree of consanguinity) that illegally violates you either physically or psychologically, such as battering, insulting and mocking, threatening, and intimidating, and causes fears and terrors in you can be regarded as domestic violence.

Q1-3: Who are lateral-blood or lateral-blood-by-marriage relatives within the fourth-degree of consanguinity?

A1-3: Here are some examples: 1. My parent and I are first-degree relatives. 2. My sister and I are second-degree relatives. (From me to my parent there is one degree, and from my parent to my sister there is another degree. Therefore, there are two degrees.) 3. My cousins and I are fourth-degree relatives. (From me to my mom there is one degree, from my mom to my grandparents there is one degree, and from my grandparents to my uncle there is one degree, and from my uncle to my cousin there is one more degree. Totally, therefore, there are four degrees.) 4. My father and grandparents from my mom's side are first-degree relatives because of the marital relationship. 5. My mom and my uncle from my father's side are second-degree relatives. (From my mom to the grandparents there is one degree, and from the grandparents to my uncle there is another degree. Therefore there are two degrees.) 6. My spouse and my aunt are third-degree relatives. (My spouse and my parents are first-degree relatives because of the marital relationship, my parents and my grandparents are first-degree relatives, and my grandparents and my aunts are first-degree relatives. Therefore, there are three degrees in total.)