**DECLARTION OF CONCEPCIÓN MARTINEZ ZARAGOZA IN SUPPORT OF HER I-360, SELF-PETITION FOR SPOUSE OF ABUSIVE USC**

I, Concepción Martinez Zaragoza, hereby declare the following:

1. I was born on August 6, 1989 in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. I write this declaration in support of my I-360 VAWA Self-Petition. I am the spouse of an abusive United States Citizen, Ryan Jones. Please contact me through my attorney, Jennifer Mashek, at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, 615 2nd Avenue, Suite 400, Seattle, WA 98104.

* ***Practice Tip: Declarations should follow this formatting and begin with a paragraph including the client’s basic biographic information. The declaration should be written from the point of view of the client and in their voice, use wording consistent with what they use. Declarations should also be written in chronological order.***

1. I entered the United States in June of 2007 with my 3 month old son, Jesus, and his father, Jose. The first time we tried crossing in Arizona we were caught by Border Patrol and returned to Mexico. About ten days later we successfully crossed into United States without inspection through Arizona. We went to Texas to live with Jose’s family. Most of Jose’s family was in Texas and he promised me a beautiful life in the United States.

* ***Practice Tip: Note when and where the client entered the United States. There is no waiver of inadmissibility for I-360 applicants, so we’ll want to ensure they aren’t inadmissible due to their immigration history so that they have no issues when applying for adjustment of status.***

1. A few days after we arrived, Jose began beating me. He mistreated me in Mexico, but didn’t start being physically abusive until we arrived to the U.S. He would hit me with a belt and slap me around. He refused to let me work for about a year, and once I started working he took all of my money. I was alone in Texas with Jose and his family. Once a neighbor heard me crying from Jose beating me and called the police. When the police arrived his family put me in the bathroom and told the police everything was fine. Jose and his family would threaten that I would be deported and my child taken away if I reported anything to the police. Sometime in 2010 I left Jose and went to stay with a friend. Shortly after I moved to Arizona to be with my family.

* ***Practice Tip: Include details of any previous hardships or abuse suffered by the client.***

1. I met Ryan Jones in 2011 while I was working at Noble Plastic in Phoenix, AZ. He was a security guard at the factory and he would pass by my area frequently. He caught my attention because he is very handsome but as I don’t speak English it was difficult to communicate with him. It went on like this for a few days until one of my coworkers in my area told me that Ryan sends his regards and I sent her to tell him that I liked him. I felt very excited because it seemed Ryan shared my feelings. When I left for my lunch he came over to me and we tried to have a conversation. In reality we didn’t say much to each other because of my limited English, but with the Spanish he knew we could understand each other. He seemed like a very nice person. In reality we looked at each other a lot more than we talked to each other. But every moment that passed Ryan was more in my thoughts.
2. The next morning through my coworkers Ryan asked for my phone number. I gladly gave him my number but then thought, “What would I talk to him about?” The next night he called me and invited me to a party but I told him I didn’t think it was a good idea because I didn’t speak English and I didn’t know his friends. He said it didn’t matter that I didn’t speak English or didn’t know his friends because I would be with him. This made me feel like he was a good person even more. I gladly accepted the invitation. But when Ryan arrived he told me the plans had changed and there wasn’t going to be a party but that we could go out for dinner, just the two of us. He didn’t have a car but told me he had a taxi waiting for us. I accepted because I really like Ryan and I didn’t want to spurn him. So we went out to eat and conversed in Spanish since Ryan spoke Spanish. He told me he like me a lot and that I was pretty and he wanted me to be his girlfriend. I was enchanted and felt like I was dreaming. I told him I also really like him too but I told him I thought it would be difficult to have a relationship because I had a son and the language was an obstacle. He told me that he didn’t care that I had a son and that he loved kids and that he would teach me English. I was excited about everything he was saying to me and accepted to be his girlfriend. After dinner we went out dancing and he behaved like a gentlemen. He bought me flowers and a doll. After dancing we went back to his apartment and spent the night together. The next morning I woke to leave and Ryan asked me to stay because he liked me so much. I told him I liked him too but I had to go.

* ***Practice Tip: Include details of the beginning of the relationship: how they met, how the relationship began, the nature of the relationship at the beginning, how they got along, what they did together, etc.***

1. Our work didn’t permit any relationships between employees so unfortunately we had to hide our relationship at work. This was also a good thing because every time I looked at Ryan the only thing I wanted to do was run into his arms. Days, weeks and months passed like this and we were falling more in love with each other. Then we decided to move in together at his apartment. I helped him economically with paying rent. Everything was going well between me, Ryan, and my son.

* ***Practice Tip: A requirement for VAWA Self-Petitioners is that they live with their abuser, so include details of when they started living together.***

1. Then in March of 2012 Ryan and I had our first fight. The fight was about his infidelity. Ryan justified cheating on me by saying it was because I of my jealous behavior that he decided to start a relationship with another person. He threw it in my face that he had been having relations with another woman. This led to a huge argument and Ryan threw me out of the apartment.
2. I went to stay with my brother. Everything seemed bleak. I couldn’t understand how a person that loved me so much could be hurting me in such a way. Finally Ryan came after me and asked me to come back. He told me he loved me and said the reason he did what he did was out of love and jealousy. He asked me to give him another opportunity. My brother was angry with me because he didn’t like Ryan’s behavior towards me. But I loved him and only wanted to be with him so I went back to Ryan. Again we were happily together and Ryan told me he would never see the woman that he had tricked me with and that he only wanted to make me happy and start a family with me. He said he wanted to have a child with me. I was so happy that I stopped taking precautions and let myself get pregnant. The only thing I wanted was to comply with the wishes of the love of my life.
3. Four months of highs and lows in our relationship passed until the horrible day I discovered Ryan had lied to me. Ryan had begun seeing the other woman again as well as another different woman. When I confronted Ryan he denied everything like a coward until he couldn’t deny the evidence. Ryan asked me to leave the apartment again, which was a huge blow to me. Unfortunately my brother didn’t let me stay with him again because he was mad at me and said he wasn’t just some toy. He told me to find somewhere else to stay. I told Ryan that he was the one that should leave because I didn’t have anywhere to go with my son. At this point I didn’t realize I was already pregnant with Ryan’s child. Ryan told me I could move into my son’s room and stay at the apartment. He said we could live together as just friends. It was hard for me to accept this because I loved him and it was painful. So I spoke with my brother and told him I would never get back together with Ryan and asked that he let me stay with him. Thankfully this time my brother let me move in with him.

* ***Practice Tip: Include early signs of emotional abuse, control, or manipulation.***

1. A few weeks living with my brother, one day my morning sickness got really bad and I asked my boss if I could leave work. On my way out I ran into Ryan who was working as the security guard outside. He asked me if I was alright and why I was leaving. I had told Ryan already that I was pretty sure I was pregnant, but he called me a liar and said the baby wasn’t his. He claimed that I was just saying that so he wouldn’t abandon me. So when he asked me if I was alright I told him I was fine.
2. On my way home I bought a pregnancy test. The test came out positive. I was excited that I was pregnant by the love of my life but at the same time my world was crumbling because the love of my life had caused me so much harm. I just cried and prayed to God that everything would turn out okay. I thought about telling my brother but was scared he would get mad and me and throw me out of his house. So I went back to work and told my friend and boss that I was pregnant with Ryan’s child and asked for advice. They told me to talk with Ryan because he still loved me and that he would take care of me. But I couldn’t bring myself to speak with Ryan because of the harm he had already caused me.
3. One day my boss came up to me and told me I had a phone call. I didn’t have a cell phone at the time so someone called his phone and asked for me. He wouldn’t tell me who it was but when I answered the phone I found out it was Ryan. He said he wanted to talk to me and asked if we could meet. I told him to just tell me over the phone but he asked to meet me on my lunch hour. So just like when we first met, he came by our work during our lunch hour to speak with me. He asked me seriously what we were going to do. I asked him about what and he said about our child. He told me that he loved me and that he wanted to marry me and take care of me and my son. I was so scared he would hurt me again. I told him he didn’t need to marry me, just fill his role as a father. I told him I didn’t think it was a good idea for us to get married just because I was pregnant, because he had already hurt me. He told me that this wasn’t the case, that ever since I left he had missed me and he realized how much he loves me. I told him I needed some time, especially since I had gained the trust of my brother and I didn’t want to betray him. Ryan accepted and said he would wait. I spoke with my brother and started dating Ryan again. We moved back in together. Ryan and I got married on August 6, 2012.

* ***Practice Tip: The marriage must have been entered in good faith. Note, what led up to the marriage, whose decision it was, why client decided to get married, etc.***

1. Ryan said after the wedding we should move to the state of Washington to start a new life together. So about a week or two after we got married we moved to Washington to his mother’s house. My life changed completely. Although I was with the love of my life, I was alone and far away from my family. I was also living with his mother, a woman that had completely different customs and traditions than mine. But I decided to put forth the effort to make my marriage work in this new environment.
2. After a few days Ryan started arguing a lot with his mother, and she would take her anger out on me. Ryan would leave at 9:00am to go to work and wouldn’t come home until 10:00pm. Every day was like agony for me. My mother in-law would bang on the doors and yell at me, but I never understood what she was saying. When Tony would come home from work she would lie to him and tell him I did all of these things and he would make me apologize to her. Most days I wouldn’t leave the room all day for fear of annoying my mother-in-law. I wanted badly to leave and be with my family. One day I told Tony that I didn’t want to live with his mother, but he told me we couldn’t leave her. He said that if I wanted to leave him to be with my family I had to wait until the baby was born and leave the baby with him. This really distressed me. Ryan would use my love to pacify me by saying that he loved me and was sorry but that he also loved his mother. He said one day we would leave his mother’s house, but that day didn’t come soon enough.

* ***Practice Tip: To qualify for VAWA Self-Petition, applicants must have suffered battery or extreme cruelty from their spouse. Note any emotional abuse, manipulation, gaslighting, control, financial control, isolation, using children and other family members against client, cruelty, contempt, or threats by abuser.***

1. Ryan and his mother were always fighting. One day she threatened to call immigration and tell them her son was married to an immigrant. This made me really anxious and scared, not just for my own sake, but also for my son Jesus, because we are both undocumented. After seeing how worried I was about this Ryan looked for an attorney to see if we could take care of my immigration status. The immigration attorney wanted to charge us a lot of money and said that I would probably be asked to leave the country so Ryan didn’t want to do it. After we saw the attorney Ryan asked me not to bring up the subject of my immigration status anymore and that it was better if things just stayed how they are. Ryan said I didn’t need anything more since he was the one working and taking care of me.

* ***Practice Tip: Did abuser use the client’s immigration status against them? Were any immigration petitions filed for the client? Did they discuss filing petition? Include details of any petitions filed on behalf of client and what happened.***

1. It was strange how Ryan would control everything. He would get annoyed whenever I would ask him for money and would tell me only to ask for what was necessary. He said I didn’t need to be managing any money. I enrolled in English classes even though I was pregnant and I had to take the bus because he would never give me a ride. At the school I met 2 women that started giving me a ride to class because they noticed me walking from the bus stop. We became friends and they began inviting me to their house.
2. Once day at the school I accidently fell. When I told my husband this he got mad and demanded I tell him who it was that pulled out my chair and forced me to fall. His behavior scared me and he said he was going to kill that person. I didn’t tell him anything else, but he said that if I went back to school and if something were to happen to the baby it would be my fault and no one else’s. I didn’t have any other option but stop going to school and close myself off in that cave of a room. Sometimes I would pass days without leaving the room with my son Jesus, without food. We were scared of annoying my mother-in-law. Every day I was becoming more and more depressed. Every time I would try to talk with my husband and tell him how I felt he would ignore me and repeat that if I wanted to leave I had to wait until the baby was born.
3. One day about a month after our son Jorge was born, Ryan and his mother got in a big fight and she kicked us out of the house. We had to find another apartment. Ryan promised that he loved me and that we were going to have a fresh new start far away from his mother. Not long after this he decided to give his mother another chance and asked me to forgive her. He said if I truly loved him, I would forgive her.
4. Around this time I very sick with stones in my gall bladder. The pain was so bad I would almost faint. Ryan would disregard me and say nothing was actually wrong and would tell me to take Tylenol. It went on like this until one day at the Laundromat I nearly fainted from the pain. The person working there helped support me and called Ryan to tell him I was sick and needed a doctor. So Ryan took me to the emergency room where I was told I needed surgery.
5. The day of my operation my mother-in-law said she would do us the favor of looking after our children, but after six hours she was called us and told us we had to pick up the kids. This really worried me. I called my friend Monica, who was my only friend at the time, and asked her if she could look after my children. Thankfully she was able to.
6. Unfortunately I had to undergo two surgeries because the stones had already passed to my kidneys. After my surgery my husband began complaining about me. Each time he visited me he just complained and got mad at me. He told me to tell the doctors that I was already fine and ready to go home. It broke my heart that he made me do that because I was still very sick. He didn’t care about how I felt. I got out of the hospital bed pretending that I wasn’t in pain because I didn’t want to fight with him anymore. I was dreading going home because I knew I wasn’t going to be able to take care of my two children in the state I was in. My husband never changed diapers or prepared bottles. Ryan just worked and gave me orders. Fortunately my friend Brittany saw that I was struggling and invited me to stay with her so her and her mother-in-law could take care of me and my children. The whole time I was there my husband hardly visited me and never gave me money for food. He left me totally at their charge and in all of my shame there was nothing I could do. Unfortunately I had to go back to the hospital because I still wasn’t well.

* ***Practice Tip: How was the relationship between the abuser and the children? Note the impact on the children as well as the well-being (physical, emotional, mental) of the client. How did the client feel throughout the course of the relationship?***

1. It hurt me so much to see that my husband couldn’t care less about me or his children. He saw us more as a financial burden. He was always fighting and rejecting my opinions. He said I didn’t have any rights to make any decisions and that I had to do what he ordered. So I insisted that we separated because I wanted to be closer to my family either in Arizona or Mexico. He told me not to talk about such things and that if I continued to say I wanted to leave him that I actually had to go but leave the children behind. He said that as an unemployed undocumented immigrant I could never fight for my children in court. He said that even if I tried the only thing that would happen is I would be arrested and deported. Each time he would say this it would make me so anxious and scared. I had no idea what to do and my husband was plunging me deeper into depression. I couldn’t say anything and I was tired of fighting and trying to reason with him.

* ***Practice Tip: Did the abuser use the client’s status and lack of knowledge of court and criminal justice system against the client? Did they use the children against the client?***

1. I even stopped seeing the only three friends I had at the time because it bothered him whenever I did. He would say that I enjoyed spending time with them more than I did with him. He made me feel guilty enough to just keep myself locked in our room just to try and make him happy. But even then he wasn’t content. He would get mad anytime the children made noise, or got hurt, or if they broke anything in the house. If anything happened he blamed it on me and would say I was worthless as a mother and that I was lazy. It got to the point that if the children ever broke anything I would say I was the one that broke it to protect my children and annoy him less.
2. I was so tired and depressed. I would cry at night and pray to God to change the situation or give me the strength to leave him. Each day Ryan seemed to get more pleasure out of seeing me scared of him. Sometime he would pull my hair and throw me on the bed. He would tie my hands and hit me with the strap of his keys. He would call me an old lady if I ever complained or a little girl if I cried. He said he was only playing, but I was so sick of his games.

* ***Practice Tip: Note any physical violence or abuse.***

1. Various times I would have to keep my son Jesus away from him because Ryan would play too rough with him. He would make Jesus cry. I would rather him do harm to me instead of my son. Whenever I would try to protect Jesus he would call him a cry baby and say I was turning him into a girl.

* ***Practice Tip: Ask the client about any abuse of children. Or about whether the children witnessed any of the abuse inflicted on the client and how it affected them.***

1. It is so difficult to live with a man like Ryan. Nothing satisfies him. To him, everyone else in the world is stupid. He thinks that he is all powerful because he has guns. Ryan dedicated himself to sleeping and working in order to buy cars, guns, and videogames. Whenever I would tell him it was bad that he only spent his money on these things he would say he could do whatever he felt like because it was his money. He would say unlike me, because I was lazy and didn’t work. He would tell me that I need to go out and find a job. When I would respond and say that I would try to find a job, Ryan would say I couldn’t actually get a job. He said because I didn’t have papers I would never be able to find a job that paid as much as he earned. He also said he would never help me take care of the kids or clean the house, so the best thing I could do is just stay home. This would hurt me a lot and discouraged me.
2. Ryan would use money against me to make himself feel powerful. He would punish me like a little girl and refuse to buy me things. Whenever he did buy me things he said I had to do whatever he wanted me to. Sometimes when we were sitting in the living room he would tell me he would give me five dollars for a foot massage. This was very humiliating for me, but I would do it because it was one of the only ways I could get money, even if it was just to by my kids some candy. He would make it seem like I didn’t have any power and was a worthless crybaby to my children. He would say these words in front of my children.
3. Time went on like this until I became pregnant with our third child. When I told Ryan I was shocked because he insisted that it was not his. I got offended and told him it was the truth, but that if he didn’t want to believe it maybe I should leave him. Again, he said that I wasn’t going anywhere until this baby was born.
4. A few days later he came home from work annoyed and went straight to the bedroom. I followed him into the room and saw that he was sitting on the edge of the bed with a gun in his hand. He told me to tell him the truth if the baby was actually his or not. I was terrified and couldn’t speak. I didn’t know what was going to happen. I started crying and said of course the baby was his, that I told him already and if he didn’t believe me he should let me leave. He yelled at me that I wasn’t going anywhere until the baby was born, and if the baby didn’t look like him, then I would see what would happen to me. I was so scared and just cried. After a moment he calmed down and asked for forgiveness, saying he just wanted to know the truth.

* ***Practice Tip: Note any threats made, explicitly or implicitly.***

1. My pregnancy turned into a living hell as my husband left me alone at the house and never took me to any of my appointments. Sometimes I had to walk to my appointments in the rain. My husband didn’t even come to the baby shower.
2. One day my husband was drinking in the living room while I was in the kitchen cooking. Then he came up to me and stood on my feet. Then he grabbed a knife and put in on my stomach and said he wanted to take the baby out. I was so scared I thought he was going to stab me with the knife and hurt my baby. I asked him to calm down and said he was hurting me, but it seemed like he didn’t even hear me. Finally he looked me in the eyes and walked away. I went to the bathroom totally scared and cried, asking myself when this hell would end. After I calmed down and came out of the bathroom he apologized to me. I calmly accepted, not because I didn’t care, but because I was scared and wanted to protect myself.
3. I had this illusion that when my baby was born I could leave far away, but this wasn’t the case. When my daughter was born she was obviously Ryan’s daughter. He asked me for forgiveness for having doubted me and said he loved me and never wanted to hurt me. But as soon as we got home things went back to the way they were. He never helped me take care of her. Whenever she would cry at night he would yell at me and kick me out of the room, saying he needed to sleep because he worked. Whenever he was home he didn’t want to hear our daughter crying and would complain.
4. Around the time of my daughter’s birth my sister came to live with us. But once she moved with us, Ryan began taking advantage of me even more. I couldn’t do anything because I was embarrassed to be treated like that in front of my sister. Over time he began taking advantage of me more and more until he also began taking advantage of my sister. Whenever he asked me to do something and I didn’t want to do it, he would tell me to stop making excuses, and that my sister would look after the kids. My sister really did help me a lot. It went on like this for two years until one day I felt totally lost. I felt that I couldn’t help my sister anymore and asked her to move out for her own sake. She accepted because at the time a friend of mine was moving to California, so my sister and her two children moved with her.
5. When Ryan found out my sister was leaving, he got really annoyed. He said it was because it was really good for me to have my sister there, but it was actually because she used to give him $200 a month for rent. The only thing Ryan is interested is money, which he felt like he was losing with my sister moving out.
6. The day my sister was moving out Ryan called me from work to say to me, “You better not plan on leaving too because you know I have a car and five guns, so you know what would happen if I found you.” I asked him what he was talking about, that of course I wasn’t going to leave. But truly he knew that leaving him was the thing I wanted most. Although I loved him my heart couldn’t take any more pain. After my sister left I felt totally isolated and felt I didn’t have the strength to keep living. Every time Ryan saw me sad after that he would throw it in my face and say he told me it was a bad idea for my sister to leave. He would say it was all my fault.

* ***Practice Tip: Note particular instances of abuse and threats and ask the client how about how they felt in response to these instances.***

1. One day we had the same argument as before. I told Ryan that I wanted to leave him and he said that if I tried to leave he would take the kids away from me and have me deported. I felt there was no exit. I felt like just another wall in the house because my opinion didn’t matter to him and he would do to me whatever he felt like.
2. About a month or two after my sister left it was close to Ryan’s birthday. I asked him if we could celebrate his birthday as a family but he said no, that he wanted to celebrate with his friends. I felt very bad because I just wanted to share something nice with my husband and my children, but he was being totally selfish as usual. On the day of his birthday, he got home from work and went straight to the gym, then back to work, then out with his friend. Nothing else existed to him besides work, his car, his guns and the gym. His children and I were just a burden to him.
3. A few days before Ryan’s birthday I had asked him for some money but he said no. When he came home drunk at 5:00am the morning after his birthday he began throwing one dollar bills at me. It hurt so much that he would rather be out partying instead of being with his family and I no longer wanted the money.
4. From his birthday forward we fought and argued. On March 29, 2015, is when I told Ryan I wanted to leave him and finally asked for a divorce. Ryan told me to calm down and said that I was exaggerating, but I insisted that I wanted to be far away from him. A few days before that I was on his facebook page and saw that he posted that he could longer put up with me and that he was going to enlist in the army. This really bothered me so I asked him when he got home from the gym if this was true. He said it was and that he was going to enlist and be gone for 20 years. I told him I agreed and said he should enlist and go, but that I wanted a divorce. This made Ryan crazy and he told me he would never divorce me and that he didn’t want to talk about it. By that point I realized there was no going back. Ryan left the apartment, got in his car and sped away. I tried calling him but he wouldn’t answer. Finally when he came home around 1:00am I tried talking to him but he told me to shut up and just do whatever I wanted. I told him he needed to help me find a lawyer because I didn’t have any money, but he told me he wasn’t paying for anything. So I went back to the room and thought I would wait until the next day after he calmed down. But he never did calm down and refused to talk to me about the divorce.

* ***Practice Tip: Ask the client about times they attempted to leave the relationship and better their situation and what happened on those occasions.***

1. I called my friend and told her how desperate I was and how he wouldn’t listen to me. She was very supportive and encouraged me to keep trying to talk with Ryan. I called him and told him I thought it would be better if he moved out, but he said he didn’t have enough money to pay two rents. He said if I wanted I could moved the kids into our room and he would move into their room. So we moved into separate rooms and lived like that for a few days but the situation just got heavier. One day he told me that I could never take him to court because we would both end up in jail because we received government benefits but only declared one of his jobs. I thought we didn’t have any other choice because our children needed health insurance and he never wanted to include them on his. Ryan insisted that we would end up in jail if I ever tried taking him to court, that our children would get taken away by the government, and that I would be deported and never see them again. This scared me so much that I couldn’t sleep. I just kept thinking about what I would do. I didn’t want to go to jail and be deported, but I also couldn’t stand living with that monster.
2. Ryan told me that since we were living in separate rooms I was no longer his wife and said he wouldn’t buy me food anymore. He stopped paying for my phone and cable. He said he would only buy food for his two children. I couldn’t believe he was being such a monster and treating me this way.
3. One morning I sent my kids with my friend so that I could be home alone to try and kill myself with one of my husband’s guns. I was crying and trembling. I took the gun and cocked it but when I had it against my head I couldn’t stop thinking about my children and the great pain I would cause them. I would be such a coward of a mother. I couldn’t pull the trigger. But I was still desperate and wanted to end my pain and misery. After a while my friend called me and asked if I could come pick up my children.

* ***Practice Tip: Include any details of how the abuse impacted the client, i.e. strains on their mental health and emotional wellbeing as well as physical symptoms.***

1. When I went to pick up my children my friend saw the state I was in and asked me what was wrong. I told her about everything that was happening with Ryan, how scared I was and how much I wanted to die. She gave me a lot of support and encouragement. She gave me the number to Familias Unidas. I told them about my situation and they told me I should contact the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to get things straightened out. So although I was scared I called DSHS and thankfully they were able to help me. They told me not to worry and that everything would be alright.

* ***Practice Tip: Did the client disclose or report the abuse to anyone? Include details of who they told and what happened.***

1. I went home and got all of mine and my children’s things and went to stay with my friend Monica. She helped me find a shelter that I could move to and let me stay with her in the mean time. As she was a close neighbor, Ryan would come by to see the children and would invite me to the store with him. When I would decline he would get very annoyed. It continued to be a very uncomfortable situation because although I was no longer living with him he was still close by. Finally the shelter called and told me they had a room open in Everett, WA so I moved there without second thought and without telling Ryan.
2. Ryan got so mad after I left to the shelter. He began looking for me and went to my friend’s house to ask for my things and my whereabouts, but she never told him. However one day at the shelter I had a nervous breakdown and decided to call him. When I called Ryan the only thing he did was insult me and threaten that he would kill me when he found me. He demanded to know where I was so he could pick up the children. He said he wanted to cause me the same pain I caused him by taking the children away. This scared me so much that I hung up on him.
3. To this day my biggest fear is that Ryan might fulfill his threats. This is why I haven’t taken him to court yet. I have been trying to get ahead and continue life with my children but it has been difficult. Ryan left me totally destroyed emotionally, but every day my children give me the strength to move on. My children are the love of my life and what keep me moving forward. While I was living in transitional housing I received a lot of help from the weekly support groups. They helped me understand and accept the pain and suffering I endured and helped me realize that I was not worthless, nor lazy, nor a coward, and that I am much less responsible for what happened in my marriage with Ryan. I understand I was a victim of abuse which helps heal my heart and mind bit by bit and allows me to forgive myself. I ask God to help me move forward and put all of the abuse behind me.

* ***Practice Tip: If the client never reported the abuse to the police, explain why not.***
* ***Practice Tip: End the declaration with what the client’s current situation is and what aspirations they have.***

I, Concepción Martinez Zaragoza, affirm under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I, Andrew Johnson, certify that I am competent in Spanish and English and that I have translated the contents of this document to Concepción Martinez Zaragoza and that she understands and agrees with its contents.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* ***Practice Tip: Include a statement of penalty of perjury for the client to sign and a translation certification for the preparer, to be signed after the final draft of the declaration is compete.***