

**DECLARATION OF JANE DOE, DEMONSTRATING EXTREME CRUELTY, IN
SUPPORT OF HER I-751 PETITION AS
THE BATTERED SPOUSE OF A U.S. CITIZEN**

1. My name is Jane DOE and I am writing this statement to explain more about my marriage to John DOE, a United States Citizen, and the abuse that I suffered while I was living with him.
2. John maintained exclusive control over the finances, socially restricted me, verbally abused me, humiliated me, sexual assaulted me, threatened to have me deported if I did not obey him, and ultimately disappeared and left me destitute in an attempt to force me to return to XXX.
3. John is a United States Citizen. In XXX, I worked as an XXX, and I met my husband, John, when I brought a group of my students to Washington, D.C. for a visit. John was our XXX-speaking tour guide.
4. After our long-distance courtship, I moved to the U.S. to marry John and start a family with him. I made this decision despite my hesitation to leave my stable job in XXX and come to a country where I did not have any friends or family, and did not speak the language. John assured me that he would take care of me and that we would have a happy family together.
5. After getting married, John and I got pregnant right away. It was only after I became pregnant that John began to mistreat me. John had many sexual relationships with other woman while we were married which, understandably, caused me much distress. Yet, the true nature of John’s abusive behavior revolved around his desire to maintain absolute control over me. As a result, John subjected me to extraordinary cruelty throughout the time that I lived with him.

My quality of life while living with John

6. John was extremely controlling. He knew that I did not have the capability of working in the U.S., but only gave me a small monthly allowance on which to live. He gave me \$300 a month which was, according to his instructions, only for “food and gas to get to the store.” If I needed anything else, I had to ask his express permission.
7. Our daily routine was this: He would go to work and I would stay home alone. He would then call me from work and tell me what he wanted to eat for dinner. I had to go out and buy the ingredients or pick up the food with the money from the allowance and have it ready for him when he got home. On a monthly basis, there was never enough money in the allowance for everything that he wanted, and certainly not enough for me to buy anything for myself.

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8. One time I asked John if I could buy a winter coat, because I did not own one. He refused and would not allow me to have a coat. During the time that I was living with him, I never bought a single item for myself.
9. I was afraid to defy John. When I first arrived in the U.S., he gave me a bank card that was supposed to be used for “emergencies only.” Because the food allowance that he gave me was never enough for all of the food he wanted, I once attempted to use the “emergency” card for food at Costco. When John found out that I had disobeyed him by using the card without his permission, he exploded. He yelled at me and insisted that it was his money, not mine.
10. I was afraid to ask John about money after that. I knew that he made a good amount of money because I had seen some of his pay stubs, but if I ever tried to ask him about our finances, he told me that it was “his business” and that I needed to “stay out of his matters.” I knew that he made a decent living working as a tour guide and I didn’t understand why he always seemed to not have any money to share with me.
11. Under these strict financial rules, it was impossible for me to have a life outside of the house. I was only given enough money to feed him and myself. Without access to any other money, I was not able to do any social activities, or to enroll in English classes, or do anything to help myself integrate with my new community. At the time, I thought that maybe John was just very careful with money, but looking back I can see that controlling the money was one of the ways that he controlled me and made me feel helpless and trapped.

Social isolation

12. John knew that I only spoke XXX and did not have any friends in the United States. I only had contact with him. Still, except for one outing (which I will discuss below), John rarely took me out in public, or introduced me to anyone. I stayed at home cooking and cleaning by myself.
13. There were many nights when John did not come home at all, so I did not speak to a single person for days at a time. After moving in with John, I soon began to feel like a domestic servant—present only for the purpose of cooking for him and keeping the house clean.
14. When the hour got late, and John had still not returned from work, I would call his cell phone to see where he was. On the occasions when he actually did answer the phone, he would say “If you have something to say, do it quickly, because I am busy.” He would often spend nights away from the house and not offer any explanation and just ignored me if I questioned his behavior.

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15. I was not allowed to speak to John unless he gave me permission to do so. During the nights when John was at home, he would typically just ignore me and stare at the T.V. or play on his I-phone. If I attempted to speak to him, he would simply shout, “Shut up!” and continue to ignore me.
16. Instead, John expected me to sit silently in the same room with him, in case he needed me to do anything for him, but I was not allowed to speak unless spoken to first. John often kept his headphones on and only took them off long enough to give me orders.
17. Also, John told me that I had to have his permission to call any of his family members---I was not even allowed to call his sister who lived in nearby Delaware, or her husband. As a result, John was the only person that I was able to talk to in the U.S., and I was only able to do this when he allowed it.
18. Additionally, I was not allowed to go anywhere without John’s direct permission. He threatened to call the police on me if I ever used his car without his permission.

Verbal abuse and threats of deportation

19. The one time that John did take me out in public, was during a pre-planned trip to Disney World with his colleagues and their wives. These were all XXX-speaking colleagues of my husband’s, so we were able to communicate. However, during the trip John verbally abused and humiliated me and told me I was not allowed to go out in public with him again because I had “behaved badly.”
20. If I lagged behind the group while they were walking through the park, John yelled back at me that I was “Slow, and moving like an idiot.” At one point, we were standing in line for a ride, and John said to me in front of his colleagues, “Look at you, just staring off! You look so dumb, like you just don’t know anything.”
21. At one point in the day, some of his colleagues told him that he needed to treat his wife better. I did not hear them say it, but I know because John came to me and angrily accused me of talking to his colleagues behind his back. I told him that I did not say anything, but he remained angry.
22. John was so angry that he said he was going to his room. He ordered me to come with him, but his colleagues objected. They said that I should stay with them and see more of the park since it was my first time there. I was happy that John’s colleagues invited me to stay with them and I accepted. John went back to the hotel room alone.

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23. Later, when I got back to the room, John was extremely angry. He yelled at me and told me that I was wrong to stay in the park without him. He said, "When I am doing nothing, it is your job to do nothing with me!" We stayed in the room for the rest of the night and I was not allowed to say anything, just required to sit with him in silence while he played on his phone. That same night was when he told me that I had behaved badly on the trip and therefore I was not allowed to go out with him or see his colleagues ever again.
24. The trip to Disney World was not the only incident when John verbally abused me. It became commonplace that he would call me a "fool" or an "idiot" when I tried to speak to him. He constantly barked at me to "Shut up" if I tried to speak to him and forced me to sit in silence for long periods of time.
25. When the name calling or the mandatory silence became too much for me, I sometimes objected, crying to John that he should not treat me this way. John's response was always the same; he said, "Well, if you are not happy here, then maybe I should just call the police and have them take you away." Another time he said, "Since you are so unhappy with me, maybe you would be happier in jail. I can call the police right now and they will believe whatever I tell them because I am a citizen."
26. On another occasion, when John was not allowing me to speak without permission and requiring me to sit silently in the room, I objected and shouted at him that I would "call the police because this is mental abuse!" John said to me, "Go ahead and call the police. They can do nothing to me because I never hit you."
27. One time, he called the police on me as a punishment for disobeying him. I attempted to speak to them despite his order for me to keep silent. He called the police and they came to the apartment. I did not understand what they were saying, as the conversation between John and the police officers took place in English. I could not communicate with the officers either. I could tell from the officers' body language that they did not believe John, and they left.
28. I knew that John understood the U.S. legal system better than I did and that he could lie about me in English if he wanted to. I believed that he could have the police take me away. I felt utterly trapped in my situation.

Additional Controlling behavior

29. John had a violent temper, and there were a few times when he actually made me fear for my life.
30. Once, we were driving down the highway, he was behind the wheel and I was in the passenger seat. He was talking out loud about a dispute between a friend of his and his friend's wife. I stated that I agreed with the wife's point of view. John felt his friend's wife was wrong and therefore became angry that I agreed with her point of view. He started accelerating in the car, reaching about 80mph. I began screaming and begging him to slow down. Then he suddenly slammed on the brakes, causing my body to lunge forward towards the windshield. He ordered me to get out of the car and stand in the cold of the side of the highway.
31. I did not have anyone that I could call for help, so I just stood there. It was so cold and I felt in danger standing so close to the road. I had to stand outside of the car until John gave me permission to get back in. He told me to keep quiet and he would take me home.
32. In another instance, while in the car with John, I told him that I thought he was behaving rudely to his father when he was talking to his father on the phone. John became angry at me for questioning his behavior and began rapidly accelerating and then slamming on his brakes over and over, causing me to flail back and forth between my seat and the windshield. I was screaming at him to stop but he simply said, "This is what happens when you make me angry."
33. John's violent behavior in the car combined with his threats to have to police take me away made me feel completely helpless and subject to his absolute control. I was so ashamed that I had left a good situation in XXX, only to end up in a miserable situation with John.
34. The pain and the anguish became too much for me and so I attempted to kill myself by lighting a coal fire in the apartment and breathing the carbon monoxide, but another tenant in the building put the fire out.

Sexual Abuse

35. While living with John, I became aware that his ideas about sex were very different from my own. When he was at work one day, I found lots of pornographic pictures and videos on his computer, depicting men with pregnant women, men with other men, and people engaged in group sex. I did not ask him about the pictures as I did not think it was my place to do so.

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36. John often traveled for business, and on more than one occasion, I found calling cards of prostitutes in his luggage and in his pockets. I knew that he was likely having sex with prostitutes in addition to several of his ex-girlfriends.
37. Still, I had learned very well that I was not allowed to ask John about his sex life or anything else without his permission. But, the worst part of John's sexual perversions were those that he forced upon me.
38. John did not allow me to say "no" to sex with him. As long as I went along with his advances, he was fine, but if I said that I didn't feel like having sex, he would force me to do it anyway.
39. On one occasion, despite my objections, he held my head and forced me to give him oral sex. He then forced me to swallow his semen when I wanted to spit it out.
40. On several other occasions, when I said "no" to sex, he forced me to submit anyway, using his physical strength to hold me in place while he did what he wanted to do. I felt that I had no choice in the matter and that John was in complete control of every aspect of my life, including my body.
41. One time, after sex, John told me to clean him off, and as I was cleaning his genitals, I noticed that he had small white blisters on his penis. I asked him about the blisters and asked him if he should go to the doctor. He got angry, called me an idiot and said that he would leave me if I did not shut up.
42. Because I did not have a job or any money or any friends or any English language skills, the thought of John leaving me seemed like a death sentence to me, even though at times I thought I'd rather die than remain in this cruel situation with John for the rest of my life.

Abandonment

43. Then, without warning, John moved out. He told me that he would not pay any support for me and that I must agree to an uncontested divorce and return to XXX. When I did not agree, he tried to force me to return to XXX by abandoning me with no food, no access to money, and no ability to drive anywhere.
44. I was desperate. I had no one to turn to and did not know what to do. I lived off of the food that was left in the pantry for a few days. I knew of a church that was about one mile from my apartment, so I walked there and asked them if they could give me some food. They gave me food cards for XXX so that I could eat. I also contacted the XXX of XXX County who helped me find legal counsel. My lawyer helped me file for divorce and the family court judge ordered John

to pay some spousal support for me until our divorce was finalized. I am now legally divorced from John.

Hope for the Future

45. I am now living in my own apartment in XXX. I work as an XXX, teaching children to XXX. I was enrolled in English classes at the XXX Community College, and I also attend free English classes at the local library. My English has improved greatly.

46. I do not make very much money as XXX Tutor, but it is enough to get by. I am a hard worker and I have paid my taxes for the last two years here in the United States.

47. I recently spoke to a professional therapist about my abusive relationship. Although it was painful to talk about all of it again, it helped me to feel better. I plan to continue with counseling in the future and take good care of my emotional health.

48. My plans for the future are that I will improve my English and also get my teaching certificate so that I can work as an XXX for the school system here in the United States.

49. I ask that you please grant my application so that I may live and work peacefully in the United States as I continue heal from my traumatic relationship with my ex-husband.

I hereby declare under the penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Jane DOE

Date