

California-Specific Updates in 2021

Here are the updates we made in English and Spanish in your state throughout 2021. To see the **six most exciting updates throughout WomensLaw.org in 2021**, including custody videos and immigration and housing legal information, you can check out our **WomensLaw at a Glance: 2021 National Updates!**

Legal Information

★ Restraining Orders

- Updated the [What is the legal definition of domestic violence?](#) question on the California Restraining Orders page to add coercive control to the definition of domestic violence.¹
- Updated [What if the abuser violates the order?](#) to include information about probation or a conditional sentence as a possible punishment, as well as the increased penalties for multiple violations.¹
- Updated [What is the legal definition of domestic violence in California?](#) to expand upon the definition for disturbing one's peace and coercive control.¹
- Revised 5 questions and added 1 new question on our [Gun Violence Restraining Orders](#) page.¹

★ Housing

- Updated and translated into Spanish 6 questions and added 2 new questions on our [Housing Laws](#) page reflecting amendments to the law.¹

★ Workplace Protections

- Updated the [Workplace Protections](#) section.¹

★ Crimes

- Added "willful infliction of corporal injury" and an additional crime related to revenge porn to the [Crimes](#) page.

★ Statutes

- Added 2 criminal statutes and a gun violence restraining order statute to the [Selected California Statutes](#) page.

¹ Edits based on legislative changes to California laws.

Places that Help

In our [Local Programs](#), we added the New Star Family Justice Center and updated the listing for the Laura's House.

About Us

WomensLaw.org serves and supports all survivors, no matter their sex or gender. We strive to explain the laws related to domestic violence, custody, and more in a “plain- language” way. Two thirds of the website is translated into Spanish with more to come!

WomensLaw at a Glance: 2021 National Updates

To provide the most updated information to survivors, their loved ones, and the professionals who help them, this past year the WomensLaw team reviewed amendments to **392 state-specific statutes** and added **302 newly-created statutes** from 54 states and territories. We also created responses for **234 new legal questions**, revised **410 existing legal questions**, and added **74 new crimes and their statutory definitions**. In our **Places that Help** section, we added **132 new state-specific resources** and revised **626 existing ones**.

Here are the top six additions to WomensLaw.org that are not specific to any state. To learn more about all of our legal and non-legal updates and additions in 2021, please visit our **What's New** page.

1 After an Abuser is Released from Jail

An abuser's release from jail can be a very difficult time for a survivor. In our new section, **Safety When an Abuser Gets Out of Jail**, we cover how to stay abreast of the abuser's incarceration status and steps survivors can take to stay safe.

2 Emotional and Psychological Abuse

This type of abuse is extremely common and can have severe short- and long-term effects on survivors' physical and mental health. On our new **Emotional and Psychological Abuse** page, we give examples of these forms of abuse and the effects they can have on victims.

3 Filing an Appeal

Many survivors need help understanding the appeals process. With the help of **DV LEAP**, we doubled the size of our **File an Appeal** section. It now includes questions about **how to set up the case for appeal, the importance of objections, and what to keep in mind when going to court**.

4 Immigration Relief

Undocumented survivors may have a harder time escaping abuse because of the legal issues related to their status. With the help of **ASISTA**, we have completely rewritten and much improved our **VAWA** and **U Visa** sections to provide as much information as possible.

5 Housing Protections

Maintaining stable housing can be a difficult hurdle for survivors to overcome. Our **VAWA Housing Protections** page explains how VAWA protects federally subsidized tenants from being denied housing or evicted because they are a victim of domestic violence. Thanks to the **National Housing Law Project** for their review and edits!

6 Custody and Domestic Violence

Custody can be complicated when one parent is abusive. We created an Online Information Clinic (OIC) video series on **Custody** with basic information on the custody court process and special considerations for survivors. We also updated our **Parental Kidnapping** and **Custody** pages. Thanks to the **Legal Resource Center for Violence Against Women** for their help!

4,904 people helped on the WomensLaw Email Hotline in English and Spanish in 2021

9.76M WomensLaw.org pageviews from more than 4.52 million unique users in 2021

To learn more about the National Network to End Domestic Violence's accomplishments in 2021, read **NNEDV's 2021 Year in Review**.

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