

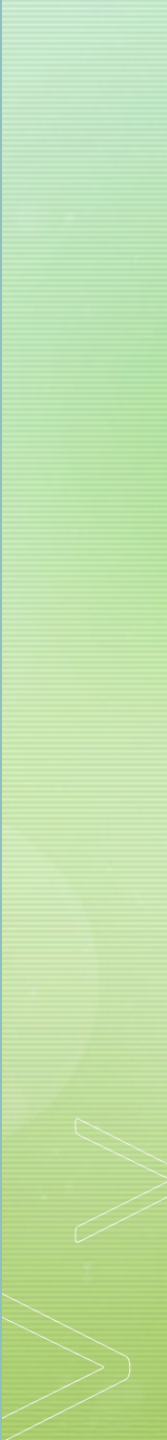
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Alaska Institute for Justice



Presentation Overview

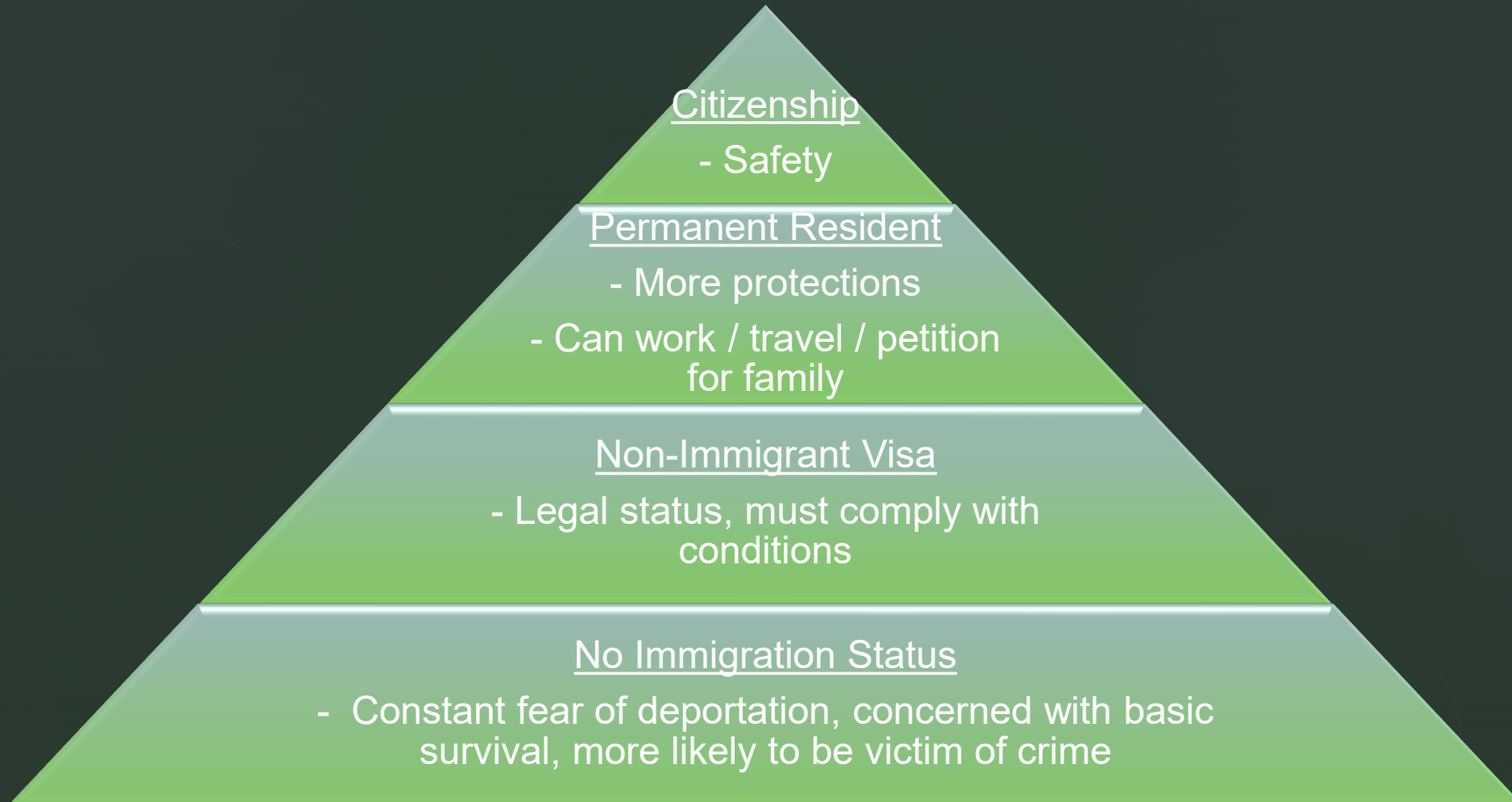
- Who we are?
 - Different types of immigration status
 - Barriers to immigration status
 - Green Card
 - VAWA Self-Petitions
 - U visas
 - T visas
- 

Who We Are

- ▶ Non-Profit founded in 2005
 - ▶ www.akijp.org
- ▶ Protecting the human rights of all Alaskans through legal services, language access, policy and education
- ▶ Three components:
 - Alaska Immigration Justice Project
 - Language Interpreter Center (LIC)
 - Climate Justice Program



Types of Immigration Status



Immigration status is a powerful tool for an abuser

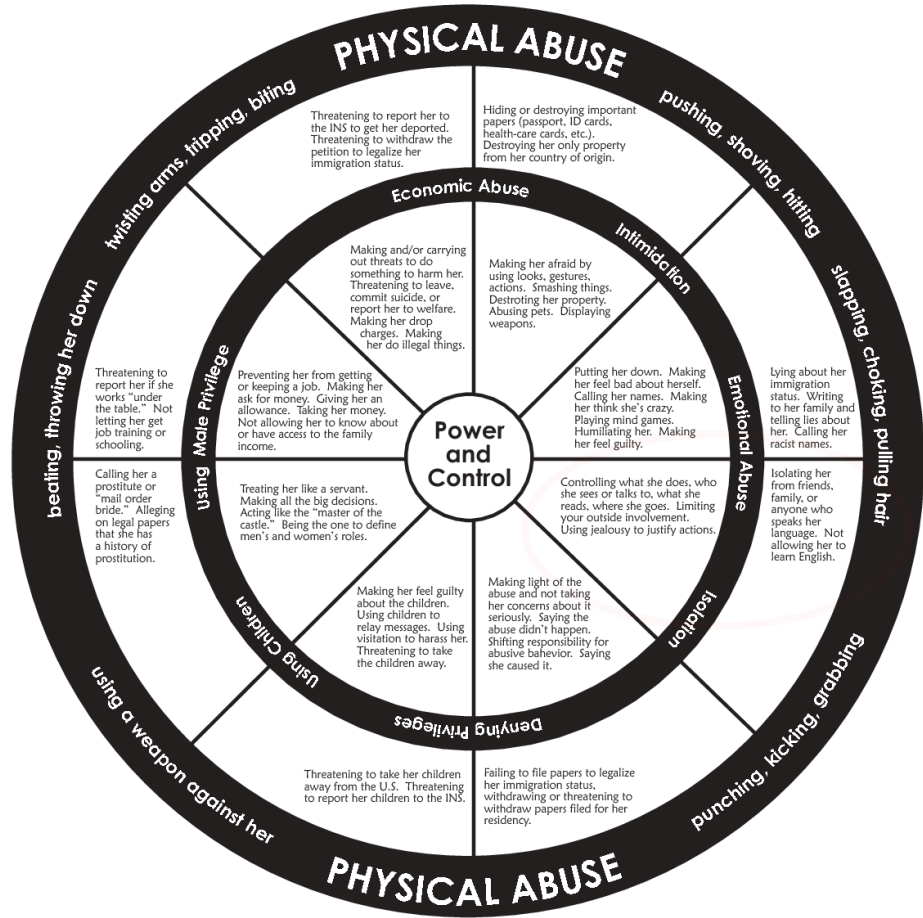
Not having immigration status means that you may not be able to:

- Work
- Have a driver's license
- Get a bank account
- Get a credit card
- Rent an apartment
- It also means that the immigrant lives in constant fear of deportation/law enforcement interaction

Abusers may tell victims and/or victims may feel that they cannot:

- Go to a shelter
- Report the abuse
- Apply for help at organizations offering legal assistance

IMMIGRANT POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL



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Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
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How Do I Get a Green Card?



Humanitarian Options

- VAWA Self-Petition – Green Card for survivors of domestic violence committed by US citizen or lawful permanent resident family member
- U visas – visas for victims of crime who were helpful in the investigation of that crime
- T visas – visas for victims of human trafficking



Barriers

- Cost
 - For a family-based green card, the filing fee is \$2,115. A work permit is an additional \$470. You also have to pay for a medical exam, an attorney, and potentially translation and interpretation.
- Language Access
 - US Citizenship and Immigration Services is now requiring in-person interpretation at interviews.
- Legal Representation
 - There are very few immigration attorneys in Alaska

Wait Times

- U visas, visas for crime victims, have a 10,000 visa annual cap. The wait list is at least 200,000.
- Processing times, according to USCIS.
 - VAWA self-petition – 46.5 months
 - T visa, for survivors of human trafficking – 28 months
 - U visa, survivors of crime – 18.5 months
 - Work permit, based on pending application for green card – 9 months

Recent Developments

- ICE has become more active in Alaska
 - Have never seen children arrested in Alaska, as we did in Soldotna last week
 - Have had people arrested in the immigration process
- Cases that were closed are being reopened
- Denied cases put into deportation proceedings
- USCIS is requiring in-person interpretation
- Overall, fewer options and more administrative barriers to the options we do have

Questions?

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- (907) 279-2457 – AIJ Main Line
- (907) 297-2760 – Language Interpreter Center