

## Access to Justice – Representing Victims Who Speak Out

### Case scenario:

Steven and Maria have been together for 12 years, and they have two children together. They are not married, in part because Maria is an undocumented citizen and is afraid of deportation. Steven has a high-profile job as the Mayor of Beaverton and makes a lot of money. He has been abusing Maria for most of their relationship, including raping her. Recently, he raped her when the kids were next door in the room. Steven did not know they were home. The youngest child told his teacher and a mandatory report was made. Police interviewed Maria and the children were taken to a child advocacy center, where they disclosed their observations of his abuse. DHS told Maria that she should get a FAPA, and she does.

Steven then called the police and reported that Maria has been unstable, and neglectful of the kids, and she hits him. He said that she recently flipped out, brainwashed the kids, and has been stalking him. He seeks a stalking protective order. He also called DHS and reported his concerns about her, and sent her a text asking her if she is going to like her deportation. Steven is arrested, and it makes the statewide newspaper, the Snore-egonian. Steven sued the newspaper and Maria for defamation.