

I, Larisa ....., affirm that the following is true:

1. I was born on ..... 19, 1964, in the city of ....., Ukraine.
2. I came to the United States as a refugee in 1997, with my husband and two children. I am now a permanent resident alien.
3. I currently reside in the United States at ....., Apt. ...., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11214. My telephone number is 718/.....
4. I am making this statement in support of the application for permanent resident status of Svetlana .....
5. I first met Svetlana (whom I shall call Sveta, following the Russian custom) in June of 1999, about a year after she came to live in New York City. Both of us were students at the Taylor Business Institute, in Manhattan, New York City, majoring in Travel Industry Studies. We became good friends and, in the natural course of our friendship, Sveta introduced me to her boy friend, Jerry ....., whom she married in October of 1999.
6. I would describe Jerry as a moody, irritable person. He was not ashamed, in front of me, to curse Sveta over a minor thing, and he would even slap her too. This happened on numerous occasions. When I questioned Sveta as to why she was willing to continue living with a husband who physically harms her and emotionally abuses her, she replied that Jerry was the only family she had in America and so she could not leave him. At one point I realized that Jerry must have a serious drug problem. Sveta confirmed that suspicion and told me that she was trying to talk Jerry into entering a rehabilitation program.
7. Sveta kept believing, naively, that she would be successful in getting Jerry to change. But even she had to change her mind about this, after an incident that happened around the time of her 21st birthday. Along with some of Sveta's other friends, I was with Sveta and Jerry in their apartment, all of us getting ready for a birthday party. Sveta and Jerry began arguing loudly in the kitchen and I thought I heard her crying. Her other friends and I ran into the kitchen, where we witnessed Jerry punching Sveta in her head. I gave her some ice to stop her nosebleed. All her friends, myself included, were shocked, as was Sveta. After this incident, she became terrified of Jerry. To protect herself, she

obtained orders of protection from the Family Court and, as soon as she could, moved into a different apartment, in a different part of Brooklyn. I am happy that Sveta is doing much better without Jerry than she could ever hope to be when she was with him.

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Larisa .....

Sworn to before me this  
day of September, 2002

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Notary Public