TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
yy.		1
:c.	HE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT	4
01.	What is "domestic violence"?	5
0)2.	What are the laws in Sri Lanka, that deal with domestic violence?	5
0)3.	Who are the relations against whom relief can be sought?	6
D44.	What are the acts of physical abuse against which relief can be sought?	7
0)5.	What are trivial acts?	7
0#6.	What is emotional abuse?	8
017.	Who is a "child"?	8
0)8.	Does the PDVA provide protection only to women and children?	9
019.	What relief can be obtained under the Act?	9
MAKING AN APPLICATION TO COURT FOR A PROTECTION ORDER		
1.0.	What is a Protection Order?	9
1.1.	Who can make an application for a Protection Order?	10
1.2.	Can a Non-Governmental Organization make an application on behalf of a victim?	10
1.3.	When can an application be made?	10
1.4.	To which court should an application be made?	11
1.5.	Is it necessary to make a complaint to the Police before going to court?	11
116.	What should be stated in the application?	11
117.	Does the victim need to sign the application?	11
118.	Does the victim need a Lawyer?	12
119.	What legal services are available for victims?	12

	Page
THE CASE IN COURT	12
The three stages of the Court procedure	12
STAGE 1: CONSIDERING THE APPLICATION	13
20. What is the objective of court at this stage?	13
21. What is an Interim Protection Order (IPO)?	13
22. What documents will the court examine?	13
23. What evidence will the court look for?	13
24. What degree of proof must be established?	. 14
25. What is "proof beyond reasonable doubt"?	14
26. Does the victim need to give evidence?	14
27. Do the respondent and other witnesses need to give evid	ence? 14
28. Can witnesses be cross examined by the lawyer for the re	spondent? 15
29. Can a spouse give evidence against the other spouse?	15
30. Is evidence regarding the conduct of the victim relevant?	15
31. What will the court do after considering the evidence?	15
32. What are the orders that can be made in an IPO?	15
33. Who are these officers to whom monitoring orders can b	e made? 16
34. Will the court make the order without delay?	17
35. Is it necessary for court to give dates?	17
36. What will the court consider before imposing any prohib	itions? 17
37. Can a court order the respondent not to step into his/her	r own home? 18
38. In what instances will the court refuse to issue an IPO?	18
39. If the court decides to issue an IPO, what steps will the co	ourt take? 18
40. If the court decides not to issue an IPO, will the case end	there? 19
41. If the court decides not to issue an IPO, what steps will the	ne court take? 19
42. Is it necessary for the applicant to take any steps to have	the order served?
43. Can a counselor to whom the parties are referred, "settle	e" the dispute? 19
44. Can the court "settle" the dispute without issuing an IPO	? 20
45. For what period will an IPO remain in force?	20
46. What can be done if the respondent evades accepting the	e order? 20
47. Can an IPO, once issued, be extended?	20
48. Can an IPO be vacated without an inquiry?	20

		Page
STAGE RETHE INDURY		21
-,19.	What is the objective of the inquiry?	21
∶(0.	What is a Protection Order (PO)?	22
5:1.	How soon will the inquiry be held?	22
5) 2.	What will happen if the respondent does not appear?	22
5 3.	Does the inquiry need to be postponed because the respondent is absent?	22
5.4.	What can be done to ensure that the Notices are served on the respondent?	23
5i5.	If the respondent is absent, can the court issue a warrant?	23
5;6.	What evidence will be taken at the inquiry?	23
5;7.	Can a spouse give evidence against the other spouse at the inquiry?	23
558.	Can the victim be cross examined by the Lawyer for the respondent?	23
559.	Is the respondent allowed to cross-examine the victim and witnesses?	23
6 0.	What degree of proof must be established to obtain a PO?	24
61.	Is evidence regarding the conduct of the victim relevant?	24
62.	Can the court "settle" the dispute at this stage without issuing a PO?	24
63.	How long will an inquiry take?	24
664.	What steps will the court take after the inquiry?	24
6 5.	What are the orders that can be made in a PO?	25
6 66.	What are Supplementary Orders?	25
0 67.	What will the court consider before making a Supplementary Order?	26
€68.	In what instances will an order be made for urgent monetary assistance?	26
169.	In what instances will an order be made to continue payments?	26
70.	For what period will a PO be in force?	27
STA	GE 3: MONITORING	27
71.	Will the court supervise the observance of a PO?	27
72.	What happens if a person violates a court order?	27
73.	What happens when a person violates a court order to make payment?	28
74.	What can the victim do if a PO is violated?	28
75.	Can a PO be amended?	28
76.	Can a PO be cancelled before one year?	29

	Page
APPEALS	29
77. Is there a right of appeal from an order of the Magistrate's Court?	29
78. If there is an appeal, does the PO automatically get cancelled?	29
SUMMARY OF ORDERS THAT CAN BE MADE BY COURT	30
THE CIVIL REMEDY VS. THE CRIMINAL REMEDY	31
79. What is the difference between a criminal case and a case $u = i \text{ ar the PDVA?}$	31
80. When a PO is issued, does it mean that the respondent is guilty of any offence?	32
81. Can an application be filed for a PO, if the Police have filed a criminal case?	32
82. Can an application be filed for a PO, if the Police have not filed a criminal case?	32
83. Can the Police file a criminal case even when an application has been filed for a PC	? 32
84. How can a criminal case be filed?	33
MISCELLANEOUS	33
85. Will the case be heard in camera?	33
86. Can newspapers write about the case?	33
87. Does the PDVA create new offences?	34
88. Can an applicant under the PDVA file other actions in respect of the same matter?	34
89. Can a victim also file for maintenance under the Maintenance Act?	34
90. Can a domestic help seek relief under the Act?	34
ANNEX 1- THE PDVA	35
ANNEX 2 - LAW RELATING TO ELDERS	49
ANNEX 3 - LIST OF CENTRES AT WHICH LEGAL SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	50
NOTES	50 57
	2/