

Client A:

I'm twenty-two and just got out of college, moved into my first apartment with friends, and started my first job at an ad agency in the city.

Things are going really well, but after work a few weeks ago, one of my team members said we should all go to happy hour after work. It was fun but one of the guys in my office would not leave me alone and would not get away from me.

Ever since we went out, he's been stopping me in the office, emailing me, messaging me, asking me out and flirting with me. It makes me really uncomfortable.

I know this isn't okay and it's against company policy, but I'm the youngest, newest one in the office and the only one without an advanced degree. I know if I file a complaint they will just think I'm making it up or just some naïve kid who is misunderstanding things.

I want this to stop, and I don't even want to go to work anymore, but I don't have the money to leave this job or move again for work. I think I need someone outside of the agency to help me figure out what to do.

I did a quick Google search for help in my area, but all that came up were domestic violence shelters. All their websites had were pictures of older women and they talked about shelter and abuse. No one looked like me and I couldn't find anything that talked about what I'm going through.

Client B:

I just turned 33 and am finally getting a divorce. My ex was verbally abusive, controlled everything I did, and forced me to do whatever they thought I should do for our entire marriage.

We've been separated for over a month now, but since we started with the divorce proceedings, my ex has been calling me, threatening me, getting their family to send me nasty messages- I'm scared for what they're going to do when the divorce is final.

We don't have any kids together, but I just moved in with my new partner. My ex doesn't know I'm with someone else now. I'm finally with someone that makes me happy and we are both in the best relationship we have ever been in.

On top of all the threats and stalking me, my ex has my insurance, both our cars, and the house in their name. I'm close with my family, but they aren't in a position to help me out financially with all this. So, I have been relying on my partner for transportation and I haven't had access to my medication. I've had anxiety, depression, and OCD since I was a teenager (long before I met my ex). Since I've been missing doses and going on and off meds, I'm not always clear headed when I talk about what's going on and it doesn't always make sense.

I don't want to report this because I'm afraid they will talk down to me or pass me off like I'm crazy and making it all up. Plus, I don't want to have to explain my situation one more time and say, "yes, I'm still legally married, but we separated a while ago and I live with my new partner now."

I'm okay financially, but not enough to hire a lawyer for months and months until this is over. And I'm still scared for what my ex is going to do if they find out I've moved on. I just need someone to help make it stop and make sure we're safe.

Client C:

Today my granddaughter just turned fourteen and said she wants to join her high school's ROTC program. As a vet, I am proud of the time I spent in the military and the opportunities I had through my military career. However, I am terrified for what she might go through and I hope to God it's nothing like my experience.

I joined the military to get away from my stepfather who was sexually abusing me throughout my childhood. Every day, I was subjected to his abuse and I joined the military to make it stop, but it didn't.

Now that I see my granddaughter wanting to sign up for this, I feel like I have to talk about what I went through, both in the military and with my stepfather. It's been over forty years since the abuse stopped, but I've never said a word.

I'm ready to find a counselor or somebody to talk to. But at my age, I don't know where to start. I am also partially deaf and need to find someone that can work with me around that. I can't always hear on the phone, and I don't know what to look for on the computer. I don't use sign language or anything, but when I talk to someone new, they need to understand how to talk to me, not down to me.