

Republic Act 9262 Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children (VAWC) Act of 2004

What is VAWC under RA 9262?

It refers to any act committed by any person against a woman and a child which result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering or economic abuse including threats of such act, battery, assault, coercion, harassment or arbitrary deprivation of liberty. VAWC includes, but is not limited to the following acts:

1. **Physical Violence** – refer to acts that include bodily or physical harm;
2. **Sexual Violence** – refers to an act which is sexual in nature, committed against a woman or her child. It includes, but is not limited to rape, sexual harassment, acts of lasciviousness, treating a woman or her child as a sex object, making demeaning and sexually suggestive remarks, makes the victim engage in sexual activity, prostituting a woman or child.
3. **Psychological Violence:** refers to acts or omissions causing or likely to cause



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mental or emotional suffering of the victim such as but not limited to Intimidation, harassment, stalking, damage to property, public ridicule or humiliation, repeated verbal abuse and marital infidelity.

4. **Economic Abuse** refers to acts that make or attempt to make a woman financially dependent. This includes but is not limited to the following: Withdrawal of financial support or preventing the victim from engaging in any legitimate profession, occupation, business or activity, deprivation of financial resources and the right to conjugal community or property owned in common, destroying household property or controlling the victim's own money or properties.

Is VAWC committed by men alone?

Women can also be liable under the law. These are the lesbian partners/ girlfriends or former partners of the victim with whom she has had a sexual or dating relationship.

Who may file a complaint?

Any citizen having a personal knowledge of the circumstances involving the commission of the crime may file a complaint.

Where should cases for VAWC be filed?

Cases may be filed in the Regional Trial Court designated as FAMILY COURT of the place where the crime was committed. These courts have original and exclusive jurisdiction over these cases.

STOP



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Republic Act 9262

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