



**Department of Community
Safety and Liaison**
Defending The Weak

SIYABONISANA
WE INFORM EACH OTHER

**BRINGING THE LAW TO YOU FOR BETTER
UNDERSTANDING AND PROTECTION**

"Did you know that domestic violence means any form of abuse - not only physical abuse? So cherish your relationship and never accept domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Act protects you if you are in a relationship with an abuser. If you are being abused, immediately contact the police for assistance, and remember - the police officer must inform you of your rights."

"Did you know that you could be sued and criminally charged if you sexually harass someone? Sexual harassment is any unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature which is said or done. Employers must maintain a workplace which protects the dignity of workers and that of customers, must advise and assist complainants and take steps against perpetrators, which could include disciplinary action. So do not get into conflict with the law and do the right thing!"

"Did you know that it is against the new National Credit Act for any micro-lender to withhold ID's or keep bank cards and PIN numbers? When you are borrowing money you also have rights. Micro Lenders have to be registered with the National Credit Regulator (NCR) who takes steps against Micro Lenders for exploiting consumers. Please contact the Consumer Complaints division of the Department of Economic Development on 033-264 2620 if you want to lodge a complaint and exercise your rights."

"Did you know that every child has the right to family or parental care? If you have parental duties and rights you must care for, nurture and maintain your child. The Children's Act says that the Court may take your parental rights away from you if it is in the best interest of your child. Also remember that when we offer our children love, security and education we build a better nation. So care for your children, protect them from abuse and neglect and help us rise and build!"

"Did you know that bail will generally NOT be allowed if it is probable that the accused may abscond or interfere with witnesses, hamper the police in their investigations, endanger the public by being released, attempt to evade trial or has threatened violence against a person, has a history of criminal activity and has committed a serious offence while on bail previously? The State may oppose the granting of bail and, if successful, bail may be denied. However, the court may decide to grant bail subject to conditions. So if you are aware of anything which could affect the decision of the court, please help us and get in touch with the prosecutor or police officer."

"Did you know that "harassment" means any unwanted behaviour which happens often or is serious and humiliates you or makes you feel intimidated? The reasons for this behaviour could relate to aspects like your gender, disability or age. Harassment is against the law and if you are being harassed, don't take the law into your own hands - approach your nearest Equality Court either at Verulam, Pietermaritzburg, Port Shepstone, Ladysmith, Durban or Nquthu."

Brought to you by the Department of Community Safety & Liaison and the South African Women's Lawyers Association



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