

## CRIMINAL CHARGES IN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CASES

**Assault:** When someone touches another person, directly or indirectly, without that person's consent or when the person attempts or threatens, by an act or gesture, to touch another person, if the person has or can make the other person believe he has the ability to carry out his threat, an assault has occurred. This is a criminal offence, whether or not the victim has any physical injuries.

**Assault with a weapon or causing bodily harm:** This is assault when the person carries, uses or threatens to use a weapon or an imitation of a weapon or causes physical harm that interferes with the health or comfort of the victim. This is a criminal offence.

**Aggravated assault:** This is assault that involves wounding, maiming, disfiguring or endangering the life of the victim. This is a criminal offence.

**Criminal harassment:** This is the legal term for stalking. It is illegal for someone to repeatedly follow someone from place to place, repeatedly communicate with that person, spend time outside that person's house or workplace or make threats against the person, if it causes that other person to be fearful for her safety or the safety of a family member.

**Forcible confinement:** No person can legally force another person to remain somewhere or interfere with (block) the person from leaving a place. Anyone who does this can be charged with forcible confinement.

**Sexual assault:** Any unwanted touching of a sexual nature is sexual assault. This can range from touching of sexual parts of the body to vaginal or anal penetration. As with other assaults, if weapons are involved or there is serious physical injury, the charge can become either sexual assault with a weapon or aggravated sexual assault.

**Uttering threats:** It is a criminal offence to utter a threat to kill or seriously harm another person, to destroy another person's property or to injure or kill an animal or bird belonging to another person.

Your worker's name:

Worker's contact #: