



BARBIE

You have lived with Ken for 5 years and have three children with him, ages 2 months, 2 years and 4 years. Ken works at the Band Office as a Researcher and you are on maternity leave from your job as a daycare worker. Ken has been verbally abusive throughout the 5-year relationship, especially when you are not working outside the home. He often accuses you of having an affair with one of the men at the community store. Since you became pregnant with the third child, Ken has said that this child is not his. On a number of occasions Ken has forced you to have sex. One time was just a few weeks after giving birth to your last child. Ken tries to control all your daily activities checking in throughout the day to see if you are spending time with family or friends. He gives you very little money to manage the home and you are expected to account for every penny you spend. You are unhappy in the relationship and you have found yourself walking on eggshells when Ken is at home. His angry outbursts have become more frequent and his violence towards you has increased over the past 6 months. Although Ken does not drink or use illegal drugs you have noticed that he has been taking more and more prescription pain killers. He was prescribed them after he hurt his back while playing hockey last winter. Ken enjoys hunting so he does own a gun. You are not sure if he would use it against you. Last night, after yelling at you for an hour and accusing you of having an affair, he pushed you against the wall and you fell hurting your arm. He has threatened you saying if you leave him, you will be sorry. He says if he can't have you, no one will. You are afraid both for yourself and for your children. You are concerned about what they are seeing and hearing. When Ken leaves for work, you decide to go the shelter. When you call the shelter, you are told there is space. You call a friend to take you to the shelter. You have never left Ken before and you are very frightened.