

**Question:**

I am a married man of almost eight years. My wife and I have two children (boys) ages 5 & 7. For years now, my wife has been saying how unhappy she is with our marriage. We have been to counseling without any positive results. When we argue, she will use profanity in reference to me in front of the children. She has, on many occasions, called me a moron, idiot, ignorant, plus many more very hurtful things the children do not need to hear. For the first time though, this morning while the kids were getting ready for school, she actually hit me in the face with her hand - gave me the middle finger - and said to get out of her face. Again, all in front of the kids. I have tried my best to let her know she has a problem with her temper being very short, the way she speaks to me in front of the children, the way she treats me in public with friends and/or strangers. I want to have some kind of official record of the hitting that took place this morning. I know our marriage is over. What options do I have as far as who can I report the physical contact to? Where can I get legal help? (I have very little money) Where can I get emotional support? (kinds of support groups)

**Answer:**

Allow me to preface my answer to your question with the disclaimer that I am not licensed to practice law in the state of Michigan. I suggest you contact the police in the event this occurs again. They may not be willing to take a report now about the previous incident. Also, in the event this continues, check with your local courthouse regarding what may be called an Adult Abuse Order or Order of Protection to prevent her from continuing her abusive behavior. As far as support groups, contact your local United Way agency or Catholic Charities. Both organizations keep a list of support groups that may be of help to you at little or no cost.