

**DECLARATION OF JOHN SMITH IN SUPPORT OF HIS I-360 AND AOS
APPLICATIONS**

I, John Smith, hereby swear and affirm that the following declaration is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, skill, and ability.

CHILDHOOD:

1. I was born on August 29TH, 1993 in South Africa into a life of difficulties and hardships. My parents weren't together, which is why I ended up living with my uncle, who was a father figure to me. Since my parents were not able to support me financially so, I only used to meet them during my summer vacations throughout the year, although they lived just a few hours away from my uncle's place. On the other hand, my uncle lived in a small house, and he wasn't the richest either, but he did his best to take care of me and to provide for me. He was the humblest person I knew as he taught me the right and the wrong and made me the man I am today. He owned a supermarket which was his bread and butter and through which he supported me too. There were times when we struggled to make ends meet, but this never stopped my uncle from providing for me and he gave me a good life. I didn't grow up with fancy toys or new clothes, but we had enough to get by.
2. Growing up, life was hard, and I had to take on many responsibilities from a very tender age. I used to help my uncle with house chores and also worked around the supermarket after school. Although my uncle was very kind and never hit me, things were still tough. There was also a time in my life when I had to drop out of school to help him support us. As I got older, my uncle used to leave me in charge of the store to deal with the customers and handle his business. He was the person who motivated me to stay healthy, active and fit and hence encouraged me to join the gym. I spent many evenings playing sports and working out at the gym. However, despite my uncle's guidance and constant support, the financial burden and the pressure of responsibilities weighed heavily upon me. After some time, I moved out of my uncle's house. This was when his business thrived, and I got into college. He also had kids then and I was ready to face the world.
3. After I got done with college, I got a job in the hospitality sector and my career was growing slowly. In 2018, I had a daughter, and we named her Simnkiwa. But after some time, ways, mother and I parted ways and she went on to live with her mother, while I supported her financially and stayed involved in her life. For a better future, I started to search for job opportunities in the United States. I eventually decided to move to the United States in 2019 when I landed a job at Admiral's Cove in Florida through an agency called Work Away International, which helped me get an H2B visa. The accommodation was free, and I started working there in November of 2019 by leaving everything behind and starting a

new, but things were cut short when COVID-19 hit the world, disrupting everything that had worked hard for.

GOOD FAITH MARRIAGE:

4. We met online through a dating app. All of my coworkers were using it, so I gave it a try. At first, I wasn't looking for anything serious and I just tried the app for fun. But then, I saw a lot of people on the app, and I wanted to give my luck a try at finding an older woman with goals, compassion and someone with life experiences who would help me grow too. I came across her profile in October 2022, and we started talking through text messages. I wanted to speak to her on call to get to know her more, but I wasn't aware of her schedule, so I stuck to messages only. Turned out, we both hated messaging and that was the start of our conversations. We talked almost every other day, and our conversations were about our families, her high school life, our work and our future plans. One thing led to another and there came a time, where we were desperately wanted to meet each other.
5. When we finally decided to each other, I was living in Maine at that time, while he was in Georgia. I told her to come down to Maine and meet me, but it was difficult for her. On the other hand, since my workplace became very demanding, and I was constantly travelling from state to state since I and my coworkers worked for different country clubs. I had to renew my visa all the time to remain legal in the country. Because of all this, we got even closer on calls and started talking to each other every single day. We shared about our day with each other and spoke of our past mistakes. She used to bring up marriage in conversations, often saying that all her friends were married with kids and that was something she wanted too. I would tell her not to rush into things as I was still desperate to see her in person and talk about marriage once we meet each other. She was very understanding of everything, and her personality was very charismatic. I was very much attracted towards her, and things started to take place in our favor. It was November now, and the season was slow. My visa had expired, and I had no work, so I decided to travel south and move to Georgia to meet the woman of my dreams and also get my life sorted with legalities and look for work as well to start my life anew.
6. The first time we met was at the Bombay Restaurant. I clearly remember the name because the food was very good. We had drinks and we spoke about my age. We found out that I was bit younger than her and we both were comfortable with it. We talked about our views on getting married and I wanted to wait for two to three years but she said otherwise. She wanted to get married and settle down. I told her that I had a daughter back at home and with my visa expired I was planning to go back, to which she insisted that we get married before I fly out of the country. I somewhat felt the desperation in her tone that she was under peer pressure from her friends to settle down, but I didn't take it seriously. After dinner we went to the movies and had a good time.

7. The following week we met again, and this time one thing led to another, and we ended up having sex for the first time. However, the problem we faced was that she bled out and then she told me that she had a history of cancer and due to her operation, it was impossible for her to have sex. While I understood that and I felt sorry for her, she brought up the topic of getting married again. She was quite insistent on getting married which made me feel pressured, but she was a sweetheart and seemed like someone that I could build my future with. I loved the way that she thought and her goals. She grew on me every day, her being with me and helping me face my challenges.
8. Time went by and I quit my job in Maine. I was not able to find any work in Georgia and I was running out of money as well. She brought the topic of getting married to help me out. I was staying at my friends' place, and we used to meet often. When I did not have enough money to take her out, I started to cook South African meals like Semp and Mushu for her. She was very supportive of everything and loved everything I did for her even without having money or job. I eventually ended up proposing to her because we loved each other and loved spending time with each other. We promised to have a big wedding once I get on my feet but till then, we were happy with what we had. We didn't plan much for the wedding as we were not able to afford a dress or suit for the wedding. So, in the end we decided to just get married in court and then our big ceremony, with our friends and families, once our lives were back on track. I remember we went to the court together, at around 11:30 in the morning. We got married in the courthouse, just the two of us. We treated ourselves to food that evening, we chose Bombay Restaurant again, she loves Indian food so that is why we picked the place. After dinner, we went back home, we were a little tipsy, so we decided to get back home.
9. After getting married, we were focused on getting our own place but with little money and no stable income, it was getting difficult for me to support us. She, on the other hand, was enjoying the honeymoon phase and proudly called me to her husband in front of her friends. We would speak of starting our own family now but then she finally confessed. She confessed to not being able to have children. This was a big blow in my face as she hid such a huge part about herself as well as our possible future from me. I felt betrayed. She on the other hand told me that she would raise my daughter as her own, but I was extremely disappointed in her. When I expressed my feeling of shock with her and said that she should have told me about her condition before we got married, she taunted me saying that I should accept what she was saying because she had married me and was helping me to get by. It was the first time of many she would say this to me, with an aggressive attitude, as if I owed her something.

10. After this conversation, I felt her changing her attitude towards me. She became more insecure towards me. Whenever I went to the gym, I noticed she was very nervous about herself, she would text me and insinuate that I was trying to find some other girls there or something like that. It was mostly when I went to the gym that she did this. This made me comfortable around her because I wasn't thinking in such ways.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

11. Jane intimidates me with her looks, actions and gestures by holding me tightly by the neck to show that she is in charge. At first it used to feel like it was something she did out of excitement and to keep the wildness going in our relationship, but as time went by, her actions took a scary turn, leaving me feel scared and uncomfortable with her actions. She started doing so when she started getting insecure about me finding any other woman at the gym where I work out. She used to threaten me that if I cheat on her, she will divorce me and I would be nothing without her, leaving me feel traumatized by her words. It's hard to shake off her words, to not let them sink in and make me doubt myself. But I know I deserve better.
12. She has the tendency to use my own words against me and make me feel belittled by blaming me for the abuse she endured on me. Once, I forgot to inform her about me being at the gym and when she came home from work, she completely lost her mind not to find me there. She called me to ask me where I was, and I told her that I was working out, but she got angry and yelled at me, ordering me to get back home instantly. The minute I arrived home, she was extremely pissed off and demanded divorce instantly. She also told me to get out of her house said to *"fuck off!"* I did not react to her outburst and waited for her to calm down. After a while I told her that it was all a misunderstanding and that whatever she was thinking wasn't true, but she remained solid on her word and went to the court a few days later and brought back divorce papers and forced me to sign them. I did as she told me to do, only later to see her tear them apart telling me that this was my last warning and that I should behave. Her continuous torture made me question myself and my actions, leaving me traumatized to see her in this form.
13. My wife smashes and breaks things and she is angry. Whenever anything ticked her off, she would erupt in anger and would throw the chairs and tables around. If there was any object in front of her like a lamp or any cutlery, she would throw them in the air to take her frustration out and to show her dominance over me. She has created scenes at restaurants too by humiliating me in public and arguing with me in front of people at the restaurant. She has also left me there without any money and I have ended up calling my friends for money or have left my phone at the restaurant to return the next day with money to recover my phone. The usual topics of arguments used to be her not trusting me enough and she was always insecure about the fact that I am seeing someone behind her back. All this came

from her friends, who have never met me or known me but filled her head with filth and made her feel insecure about herself as well as our relationship. I tried to explain myself multiple times, but it all fell on deaf ears, and she continued to show aggressive behavior, leaving me heartbroken with the person I once thought I loved the most.

14. Because of such episodes of rage and threats, I have always been scared of her to the limit where I ended up hiding my important documents from her. I am scared that she might burn them or tear them apart, making it impossible for me to recover them because of my status. She has also used my immigration status against me to gain power and control over me, making me feel helpless and shocked to see what she is capable of.
15. Jane has the audacity to lie to her family about me and distort reality in order to make her look like the victim. Once at a family gathering, we showed ourselves as a happy couple and nothing was wrong. The gathering was at her side of the family and for a moment at the party, I was pulled aside by her brothers, and they threatened me never to hurt their sister or else they would harm me in ways that I cannot imagine! The incident left me blank and numb, and it took me a whole day to process what had happened to me. The next day, when I got back to my senses, I realized that it was a planned activity done by my wife by involving her family to influence me negatively and to remain under her control. This entire episode left me jolted to my core and I only wished to somehow get out of this trap of a marriage I got myself into in the name of love.
16. My wife controls my involvement outside the house by keeping tabs on my every move and demanding that I share my location with her all the time. She also demands that I take her calls whenever she calls me during work to know of my activity and whereabouts. There was a time when I decided to open a joint account with her to save up money for the house that we wanted to build for ourselves. It had been our dream since day one! So, I told her that I would work as a delivery man for DoorDash and would save up the money I earned in the joint account to contribute financially to the house as well as to our savings. She initially agreed to it but during my shifts she started to call me frequently. Now, there were times when I was driving or was between deliveries or with clients when I missed her calls. After reaching home, I had to bear with her bad moods as she used to sit in the lounge, waiting for me to return, and the minute I stepped into the house after my long shifts, she would burst in anger at me screaming things like, *"I'm your fucking wife, you need to answer me! If I divorce you, you're done, no driving no money, even now, I made you, you can do this shit because of me!"* I used to try and give her explanations by showing her proof of deliveries, but she refused to listen and only show anger. I eventually ended up leaving the delivery man job as it was starting to get to my head, and it was a lot to bear on a daily basis.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

17. Jane puts me down and tries to make me feel bad about myself by calling me loser for not being able to contribute financially to the house. At one time, we were looking for house and we absolutely fell in love with a house which was beyond our means. This put her off and when we got back home, she was in a bad mood. When I asked her what happened, she exploded at me in rage and blamed me for not being able to afford the house. She called me “*Loser*” and told me that it’s because of me not having a job that we are not able to buy that house. She further added that I enjoy her money and that I want her to work to provide for her while I only like to spend. This broke my heart and made me feel bad. I never knew the person I fell in love with would blame me for misusing her money like that.
18. My wife attacks my physical appearance by controlling what I wear. Whatever I wear when we go out, she tells me to change. She makes me suit up like an old man and doesn’t want me to look nice because according to her, I suit up nicely to attract girls towards myself. She tells me that my clothing should be “*husband-appropriate*” and that it should show that I am married. This not only lowers my self-esteem and self-confidence but also makes me feel unvalued and unloved, because I only suit up to impress her and no one else.
19. Jane has a way of showing who is in charge of the house. Whenever she goes out anywhere, she never informs me about her plans. If I call her to check up on her, she doesn’t answer my calls. When she gets back and I ask her about her activities or her day in general, she refuses to answer me and shows that whatever she did was right and was her right to do so. She usually goes out with her friends and spends time with them but refuses to share details of her afternoons or evenings. I never felt suspicious of her activities because during our fights, she always throws in what her friends say and think about me, making me understand that she doesn’t have any other man in her life.

VERBAL ABUSE

20. There have been times when my wife, Jane has forced me to speak to my family back at home in English. She knows that my family back at home has little to no proficiency in English and yet I am forced to speak to them in English and also remain nice to her in front of them. If I use any word from my native language while talking to them, I am asked to translate it for her. She makes me do this because she feels that I might complain my family about her behavior to them or maybe I am speaking to numerous girlfriends that I have according to my wife, while I have always been speaking to my sisters or cousins or friends back at home. It’s not like she is unknown to them. She has spoken to them too and they know her but, in her mind, she thinks it’s unfair to her a wife to not be able to understand the conversations that I am having with my family as they can be about her. Because of all this, I have also started to speak to my family in her absence. There are times when I wait

for her to go somewhere or sleep in order for me to talk to my family back at home. Her blackmailing and torture makes me feel helpless and I sometimes wish I hadn't met her in the first place.

21. My wife insults me by calling me names like "*Nigga*" and "*Loser*" for not being able to keep a job. She forgets about the fact that I packed everything up in Maine and moved to Georgia just to be with her. She also doesn't understand that her trust issues which makes her keep tabs on me all the time also affects my working capacity. Sometimes, I wonder if she doesn't understand my situation or refuses to support me and does what she does because she loves to overpower me. It's all very confusing and frustrating for me and I somehow just want her to be her old self, whom I fell in love with.

SEXUAL ABUSE

22. After getting married to Jane, my sex life is in shambles. Since she hid her illness from me, and it was a big blow to my face that she can't become a mother because of her history. None of it mattered to me once I cooled down because I was in love with her but now, things are different. Jane forces me to have sex with her even after knowing that would bleed out. She always bleeds out whenever we get intimate making it difficult to feel pleasure in the act. Whenever I stop in the middle of the act because she bleeds out, she gets angry and tells me that as her husband, it's my obligation to satisfy her. I have addressed her illness multiple times with her and have told her to see a doctor for this issue, but she refuses to listen and keeps on manipulating me into having sex with her. This puts me in a very difficult position as I don't want to put her down or make her feel bad about her illness and further, I don't want her to get angry at me for not wanting to get intimate with her.
23. Jane also has her ways into forcing me into having sex with her. She gets drunk and then forces me into doing it with her because she knows that if she would remain sober, I would talk her out of it. This makes things very difficult and uncomfortable between us and I just wish for her to understand that against all odds I am with her.
24. Before we got married, I thought that this was a minor issue, but after we got married, I got a clearer picture of her condition. Every time we had sex, I felt disgusted and afraid, that I was vulnerable to anything from her. No matter how I said it or what words I used to express my fear, she would accuse me of not loving her or not trusting her. There was no getting through to her on this subject, it would just be one long discussion that ends in an argument. There were times when she bled out so much that I started to be afraid of what other things she could be hiding from me, like maybe an STD and maybe I was infected. I was very scared of this whole situation, but she refused to listen and kept on putting me at risk of diseases.

25. My wife does not allow me to use protection while having sex with her. Because of her whole bleeding out problem and me getting scared that I might get infected from her, I started using protection, but she blamed me for not trusting her enough with her condition and also said that I don't love her enough. When I tried to explain to her that I was doing so for my own health, she accused me of not trusting her again. After all this, she agreed to get herself checked by a doctor, but she did not follow up as there wasn't much difference after the initial checkup. I wish she had continued with the treatment to see any possibility of her getting better and maybe even getting out of this problem.
26. My wife forces me to partake in other sexual demands against my will. She would perform oral sex on me and would demand that I do the same to her. I did not want to, because I did not want to get blood in my mouth. I had to be smart about how to say no, I wanted to avoid a conflict with her, but she would get angry and start accusing me of not loving her. This became a permanent issue in our intimate moment. Whenever she wanted oral sex, she would come and demand it and every time I said no, it was always a fight. Having sex with her is always a difficult and a very challenging task as it always ends in us fighting to each other and just arguing with each other at what one wants and what one doesn't want. I wish things were not as complicated as they are with her now.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

27. My wife uses weapons to intimidate me and keep me under her control. She has a pepper spray that she got off the street and keeps with her all the time. Whenever we got out, she carries it with her saying that it's for self-defense in case somebody attacks her. We have gotten in trouble at restaurants because of her carrying that pepper spray. I always have to remind her to leave in the car when we go out because she never leaves the sight of that thing. On other occasions she has also demonstrated the use of sharp objects to defend her. She has shown me how she would cut someone up if they try to attack her. Although she has never said these directly to me but the way she said them feels like they're intended towards me which makes me extremely uncomfortable around her.
28. Jane drives drunk with me in the car with her. There have been times where she has been drinking out with her coworkers and then we had gone out for dinner where she drank more. Upon a lot of insistence, I told her to let me drive, but she put up a scene in front of public saying that she would drive only, and I am not allowed to set foot in her car. I have ended up taking an Uber home whenever she has insisted on driving home while drunk. Many times, I come home before her and pretend to sleep, and she ends up pulling my shirt up or strangling me to wake me up to fight her. But since she has always been drunk, she has always ended up going to bed which makes me feel relieved.

FINANCIAL ABUSE

29. Jane has used my daughter to dominate me financially. She has always been helpful towards the fact that I don't have a job, or I am struggling financially, and I need the money to send some basic supplies from time to time for my daughter back home. She has always lent me money, although it's not much, like it's between \$150 to \$200 but when she has had episodes of rage, she has thrown this to my face that she has given me money to send supplies to my daughter and that I am useless and worthless and a failed parent. She has also used the same to exploit me sexually but mostly, it's financially. When she knows that I am at my weakest and she wants me to return the money, she screams and yells at me saying things like, "*Give me back my money nigga!*" or "*Give me back my fucking money, you took it, so you owe me!*" In those desperate times, I have borrowed money from my family and friends to put an end to the turmoil she put me in. And as soon as I return the money, she changes back to normal within moments like nothing happened and everything is fine and normal.
30. My wife threatens to report me to immigration for having jobs that are under the table. During an argument on her securities of me being away with friends, ticked her off and she said that I should have informed her about my whereabouts. I kept on telling her that I was with friends, and she kept on screaming that I was with my bitches to satisfy my sexual needs. When things got heated up, she threatened me that she would report me to immigration and get me deported if I did not tell her about my activities the next time I go out. It made me feel trapped and suffocated in our relationship.
31. My wife forces me to ask her for money and monitors my spending. I am also forced to provide proof of purchases that I made using her money. First, she doesn't let me keep a job. Then when I ask her for money, she throws everything that is on her mind at my face making me feel as if I am a nobody and can't function without her money. When I return the money, she simply says thank you and drops all the drama in seconds. If I ask her to pay me for the basics of the house like groceries or gas, she tells me to take screenshots of the payments and show her the exact amount I spent in order to satisfy trust issues because she doesn't want me to send any money home without her knowledge. All of this is extremely frustrating and gets on my nerves. I feel helpless and trapped and I wish I could simply run away from all this one day.

**I HAVE SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF THE ABUSE MY SPOUSE HAS
INFLECTED UPON ME**

32. Jane changed completely after marriage, especially after I found out about her illness. It brought her to a side that I had never even imagined her to be. The hopes and dreams I once had to have a peaceful life, to feel loved and to have my own house and my family are crushed by my wife. I long for a day when all of this ends and I am desperately praying for relief from her constant abuse.

**I HAVE MAINTAINED A GOOD MORAL CHARACTER DURING MY TENURE
IN THE UNITED STATES**

33. During my tenure in the United States, I have maintained a good moral character. For instance, I have not been involved in any criminal infractions and have respected the law.

Signed and sworn this on 6TH of June 2024

John Smith