

PERSONALIZED SAFETY PLAN FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This is my plan for increasing my safety and preparing in advance for the possibility of further violence. Although I do not have control over my partner’s violence, I can find ways to reduce risk of harm for myself and my children.

MY IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police: 911 and _____ (Non-Emergency)

Domestic Violence Program/Safe Home: _____.

District Attorney’s Office _____.

Campus resources _____.

SAFETY DURING AN ASSAULT

There are a number of things to do to increase safety during violent incidents.

I can do some or all of the following:

- 1. If I decide to leave, I can get out of the house/dorm by _____.
(Practice how to get out safely. What doors or windows will you use?)
- 2. I can go to _____.
- 3. In order to be able to leave quickly, I can keep my purse and vehicle key ready by putting them: _____.
- 4. I can tell _____, (neighbors) about the violence and ask them to call the police if they hear suspicious noises coming from the house/dorm room.
- 5. I can use _____ as my code word with my family/friends when I am in danger, so they will call for help.

6. When I expect an argument, I can try to move to _____, a space near an outside door that has no guns, knives or other weapons (usually bathrooms, garages and kitchen areas are dangerous places).

7. I can use my judgment and intuition. If the situation is very serious, I can give my partner what he wants to calm him down. I have to protect myself until I am out of danger.

8. I can call the police when it is safe, and I can get a protective order from the court.

SAFETY WHEN PREPARING TO LEAVE

Leaving must be done with a careful plan to increase safety. Perpetrators often strike back when they believe the woman is leaving the relationship.

I can do some or all of the following:

- 1. So I can leave quickly, I can leave money, an extra set of keys, extra clothing and important documents with _____.
- 2. I can open a savings account to increase my independence by _____.
- 3. I can check with _____ and _____ to see who would be able to let me stay with them or lend me some money.
- 4. The National Domestic Violence hotline number is **1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**. By calling this free hotline, I can get the number of a shelter near me.
- 5. I can rehearse my escape plan.
- 6. I can plan to break up in a public place and will stay with _____ after.
- 7. Other things I can do to increase my independence:

Checklist - What you may want to take with you, if it is safe to do so:

- Identification
- Address book
- Money
- Credit cards
- Medications
- Social Security Cards
- Keys (house/car/work)
- Welfare identification
- Driver's license/vehicle registration
- Birth and marriage certificates
- Checkbook, ATM (Automatic Teller Machine) card, and other bank books
- Work permit
- School and vaccination records
- Divorce papers
- Copy of protective order
- Passport
- Pets (if you can)
- Jewelry
- Photo Album

SAFETY IN MY HOME

There are many things that a woman can do to increase safety in her home. It may be impossible to do everything at once, but safety measures can be added step by step.

1. I can inform _____ that my partner no longer resides with me/is dating me and they should call the police if he is seen at my residence.
2. I can change the locks on my doors and windows as soon as possible.
3. I can tell my roommate(s) about the situation and _____.

WITH A PROTECTIVE ORDER

Protective orders are available from the court. An advocate is available at the nearest domestic violence/sexual assault program to help you get one. Many perpetrators obey protective orders, but some do not. I understand that I may need to ask the police and the courts to enforce my

protective order. I can do some or all of the following to increase my safety:

1. I can keep a copy of my protective order with me at all times.
2. I can check with my local police department to make sure my protective order is on record with them. If not, I will give a copy of my protective order to them. I will also give a copy of my protective order to police departments in the community where I work and in those communities where I usually visit family or friends.
3. I can tell my employer, my domestic violence program advocate, my closest friend, and _____ that I have a protective order in effect.
4. If my partner destroys my protective order, I can get another copy from the court house by calling _____.
5. If my partner violates the protective order, I can call the police and report a violation, call my attorney, call an advocate at a domestic violence program and/or advise the court of the violation.

SAFETY ON THE JOB AND IN PUBLIC

Each woman must decide for herself if and when to tell others about the violence. Friends, family and co-workers can help to protect her, and she needs to consider carefully who to ask for help.

I can do any or all of the following:

1. I can tell my boss, the security supervisor and _____ at work of my situation.
2. I can ask _____ to help screen my telephone calls at work.
3. When I leave work, I can walk with _____ to my car or bike. I can park my car where I will feel safest getting in and out of the car.

4. When traveling home if problems occur, I can _____.

5. I can use different grocery stores, shopping malls and banks to shop and do business at hours that are different from those I used when residing with my abusive partner.

8. I can also _____.

SAFETY AND COLLEGE

Here are some steps I can take to protect myself on campus:

1. I can tell my Resident Assistant, Peer Health Educator, or another residential staff person about my situation.

2. I can ride/walk with _____ to and from class. I can ride/walk with _____ to and from _____ activities.

3. If my partner has any classes with me, I can talk to _____ (my professor or TA) and tell them about my situation.

4. I can talk to my Resident Fellow, Resident Dean or Academic Advisor about changing classes or sections, or arranging extensions, incompletes or withdrawals. The name and contact information of someone I can talk to is _____.

SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY

Partners sometimes use technology as a means of controlling or monitoring their partner. Here are some steps I can take to protect myself:

1. I will set up a new, private e-mail address. This e-mail address will not contain my name or birth date, or other words that would identify me.

2. I will regularly delete received and sent e-mails, and clean out the Deleted Items folder or purge my deleted e-mails in my e-mail account.

3. I will try to use a private computer or one that my partner does not have access to, like one at a public library, community center, or Internet café. A nearby public computer is located at _____.

4. If I use a computer my partner does have access to, I will look up how to clear the history of websites I have visited on www.stoprelationshipabuse.org. I will also empty the Recycle or Trash bin on the computer to erase documents.

5. I will change the privacy settings on my Facebook or MySpace account to restrict access to my page.

6. I will not store my passwords if my web browser is capable of doing so. I will change my passwords often and use different passwords for different sites. I will use passwords with both letters and numbers so they are harder to guess.

7. I can contact the courthouse where I am involved in litigation to request that my online court records be kept confidential. My courthouse's telephone number is _____. I will do a Google search of my full name in parentheses and take steps to change any pages that offer private information about me.

8. I can set up a new telephone number by calling my telephone company at _____. I can also call a local hotline to learn about donation programs that provide new cell phones or pre-paid calling cards for victims of abuse or stalking. If there is a baby monitor in the house, I will turn it off when making calls that I do not want overheard.

9. I will make sure that my telephone and address are unlisted by calling my telephone company.

10. I can set up a private P.O. Box where I can receive mail and request that my mail be sent to this new address. I will have my phone bill be sent to this new address. I will try to keep my residential address out of the national database.

11. If I think my partner has set up a Global Positioning System in my car or purse, I will contact the police to see what I can do.

victims of abuse. This plan can be used for victims in same sex relationships as well.

SAFETY AND MY EMOTIONAL HEALTH

The experience of being abused and verbally degraded by partners is exhausting and emotionally draining. The process of building a new life for myself takes much courage and incredible energy. To conserve my emotional energy and to avoid hard emotional times, I can do some of the following:

1. If I feel down and ready to return to a potentially abusive situation, I can call _____ before making a decision.
2. I can use, "I can" statements with myself.
3. I can remind myself daily of my best qualities. They are _____.
4. I can read _____ to help me feel stronger or better.
5. I can call _____, _____ and _____ as other resources to be of support to me.
6. I can attend workshops and support groups at the domestic violence program or _____ to gain support and strengthen my relationships with other people.
8. Other things I can do to help me feel stronger are: _____.

Note: Because the vast majority of domestic violence is committed by men against women, this safety plan was written using the female gender when referring to the abused victim. This does not mean to imply that men cannot be