

Instructions for Resource Checklist
(for University Staff Assisting Survivors or Potential Survivors of Relationship Abuse)

This is a checklist for people whom you know or suspect to have been in a controlling or abusive relationship. Relationship abuse is the control of one intimate partner by another through verbal, emotional, sexual, or physical abuse. Even when there is no physical abuse, a partner can coerce/control someone through verbal threats or intimidation (i.e., throwing things or yelling). This checklist will allow you to identify the safest way of contacting the survivor of the abuse and what their immediate needs are for assistance in reaching safety. **Many people who commit relationship abuse monitor their partner's communications and their whereabouts as a way of controlling them. Therefore, meeting with you or receiving information from you about relationship abuse could put the survivor in danger of retaliation from her partner.**

When you first respond to an incident, **it is important to meet with the survivor alone.** If this is not possible, schedule a follow-up meeting with the survivor for another time when the survivor's partner is not present. This follow-up meeting can be articulated as protocol to avoid the implication that the survivor has asked for a meeting with you alone, which may anger their partner. To ensure the safety of the survivor and guarantee that he or she is able to speak without intimidation, you should **not** meet with the survivor and their partner together or attempt a mediation. Do not recommend couple's counseling if you think there may be an imbalance of power in the relationship or if you suspect relationship abuse. Instead, recommend individual counseling or specific services for relationship abuse.

Because the survivors' experiences may have been traumatic, it is often helpful to offer them the opportunity to articulate their needs through written questions. It also may be helpful for you to have a list of the most common immediate issues and precautions that should be mentioned to the survivor. This checklist is not a complete list of options, but it is a good starting point and reference in a crisis.

1. Explain that this checklist is a helpful way of making sure that contact with you will not jeopardize that person's safety. Explain that you will keep this copy of the checklist, and you will also give them a blank copy to keep so that they can think about some of the available options listed. **If the survivor indicates that it is not safe for her to have the handout, do not give her a copy to keep.** Instead, tell her that you will keep it for her at your office.

2. Give the person a copy of the checklist and ask them to check the boxes of statements which are applicable and to fill out the information requested.

3. Remember to show them the list of resources on the back of the handout. More detailed safety plans and other resources are available and can be obtained by calling the Center for Relationship Abuse Awareness or going to www.stoprelationshipabuse.org.

4. After the survivor has completed the checklist, review her responses. If s/he has indicated s/he would like assistance with safety planning, contact with a relationship abuse agency or assistance from a trained advocate, contact the Center for Relationship Abuse Awareness at 650-736-2276.

5. If there are issues with technology safety, refer the survivor to www.stoprelationshipabuse.org/techsafe.html and review the Technology Safety Handout in Appendix.

For other issues, such as assistance with academics or transportation, schedule a team meeting to discuss the next steps that should be taken.

Resource Checklist

Here is a checklist to determine how we can assist you in the safest way possible. Please check the boxes next to the statements which apply to you:

Communications: Because some people monitor their partner's communications in order to control them, we want to make sure that we do not put you at greater risk by contacting you.

E-mail and Internet

- Does your partner monitor your communications (e-mail, phone, internet use, mail)?
- Is it safe for us to send you e-mail? What is the best e-mail address where we can contact you?
- Would you like assistance setting up a new, private e-mail account?
- Do you need assistance accessing a private computer, or learning how to erase the computer's record of what sites you have visited?

Phone

- Is it safe to call you? What is the best phone number where we can contact you?
- Would you like assistance contacting the telephone company to get a new phone number?

Mail

- Is it safe for us to send you mail? What is the best address where we can send you mail?
- If you receive mail to your residence and your partner monitors it, do you need assistance getting a new PO Box?

Academics

- Do you have any classes or sections with your partner?
- Would you like academic accommodations? (i.e. switching to a different section, changing classes, requesting extensions and/or incompletes, or withdrawing from a class)

Residence and Transportation

- Does your partner have access to your dorm room or other places of residence?
- Would you like assistance changing your locks?
- Do you need a safe place to stay in an emergency?
- Do you have access to transportation? Do you need assistance obtaining transportation?

Safety

- Is it safe for you to have this handout, or any other handouts we may give you?
- Would you like assistance setting up a safe place to keep papers/essentials (item #4 on back)?
- Would you feel safe if we talked to your partner about this incident? **Circle: YES/NO**
- Are there things we should avoid mentioning to your partner? **Circle: YES/NO**
- We respect your confidentiality. However, we may have to share some of this information in order to provide for your safety. Is there anyone with whom sharing this information may put you at greater risk? (i.e. RA, PHE, Friend, Neighbor, Dean, Professor, Boss)
- There are ways to plan to stay safe in emergencies. Would you like to develop a safety plan?
- Would you like a referral to an advocate or local relationship abuse agency?
- Would you like an advocate to call you to talk about what you've experienced?

Here are some numbers and websites you can contact for assistance:

Relationship Abuse Agencies:

- Support Network: 24-hour hotline, 1-800-572-2782
- Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI): 24-hour hotline, (408) 975-2739
- Maitri (for South Asian women): 1-888-8-MAITRI

Get a P.O. Box:

- <http://www.usps.com/receive/businesssolutions/poboxservice.htm>

Get a new, free e-mail address:

- <http://www.hotmail.com>
- <http://www.yahoo.com>
- <http://mail.google.com>

One time emergency funds, for exceptional and unexpected expenses, may be available to you through:

- Student Financial Services (Cynthia Hartley, chartley@stanford.edu)
- Graduate Life Office (Chris Griffith, griffith@stanford.edu)

SAFETY MEASURES WHILE YOU'RE IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

If you are living with the person who is abusing you, here are some things you can do to ensure your and your children's safety.

- 1. Have important phone numbers memorized** – friends and relatives whom you can call in an emergency.
- 2. Keep change for pay phones with you at all times (and know where the nearest one is).**
- 3. Stay in touch with friends.** Get to know your neighbors. Resist any temptations to cut yourself off from people – even if you feel like you just want to be left alone.
- 4. Leave a set of car keys, extra money, a change of clothes and copies of the following documents with a trusted friend, relative, or University staff person in case you have to leave in a hurry:**
 - Your and your children's birth certificates
 - Your school and medical records, copies of prescriptions
 - Any school or government-issued identification cards
 - Passports or green cards
 - Your social security card
 - Contracts, lease agreements or mortgage payment book
 - Insurance papers
 - Important addresses and telephone numbers
 - Driver's license
 - Car title papers
 - Checkbook
 - Credit or ATM card
 - Some cash

Other general information and additional resources can be located at: |
www.stoprelationshipabuse.org and relationshipabuse.stanford.edu

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