

Personalized Safety Plan

Below is a seven step safety plan. Please take the time to fill it out with a friend, family member or a woman in need. Even if you feel you will never need this information...

Step 1. Safety during violence.

I can use the following options:

- a. If I decide to leave, I will _____.
See Your Safety Plan.
- b. I can keep a bag ready and put it _____ so I can leave quickly.
- c. I can tell _____ about the violence and have them call the police when violence erupts.
- d. I can teach my children to use the telephone to call the police and the fire department.
- e. I will use this word code _____ for my children, friends, or family to call for help.
- f. If I have to leave my home, I will go _____. (Be prepared even if you think you will never have to leave.)
- g. I can teach these strategies to my children.
- h. When an argument erupts, I will move to a safer room such as _____. See Your Safety Plan.
- i. I will use my instincts, intuition, and judgement. I will protect myself and my children until we are out of danger.

Step 2. Safety when getting ready to leave.

I can use the following strategies:

- a. I will leave money and an extra set of keys with _____.
- b. I will keep important documents and keys at _____.
- c. I will open a savings account by this date _____ to increase my independence.

d. Other things I can do to increase my independence are: _____

e. The domestic violence hotline is _____.

f. The shelter's hotline is _____.

g. I will keep change for phone calls with me at **ALL** times. I know that if I use a telephone credit card, that the following month the telephone bill will tell the batterer who I called after I left. I will keep this information confidential by using a prepaid phone card, using a friend's telephone card, calling collect, or using change.

h. I will check with _____ and _____ to know who will let me stay with them or who will lend me money.

i. I can leave extra clothes with_____.

j. I will review my safety plan every _____ (time frame) in order to plan the safest route. I will review the plan with _____ (a friend, counselor or advocate.)

k. I will rehearse the escape plan and practice it with my children.

Step 3. Safety At Home

I can use the following safety methods:

a. I can change the locks on my doors and windows as soon as possible.

b. I can replace wooden doors with steel doors.

c. I can install security systems- i.e. additional locks, window bars, poles to wedge against doors, electronic sensors, etc.

d. I can purchase rope ladders to be used for escape routes from the second floor.

e. I can install smoke detectors and buy fire extinguishers for each floor of my home.

f. I can install an outside lighting system that lights up when someone approaches my home.

g. I will teach my children how to use the phone to make collect calls to me and to _____ (friend, family, minister) if my partner tried to take them.

h. I will tell the people who care for my children, who has permission to pick up my children. My partner is NOT allowed to. Inform the following people:

School _____

Day Care _____

Babysitter _____

Sunday School _____

Teacher _____

And _____

Others _____

i. I can tell my the following people that my partner no longer lives with me and that they should call the police if he is near my residence:

Neighbors _____

Church Leaders _____

Friends _____

Others _____

Step 4. Order of Protection

The following steps will help enforce the order of protection:

a. I will keep the protection order _____ (the location). Always keep it with you.

b. I will give my protection order to police departments in the areas that I visit my friends, family, where I live, and where I work.

c. If I visit other counties, I will register my protection order with those counties.

d. I can call the local domestic violence agency if I am not sure how to register my protection order with the police departments.

e. I will tell my employer, my church leader, my friends, my family and others that I have a protection order.

f. If my protection order gets destroyed, I know I can go to the County Courthouse and get another copy.

g. If my partner violates the protection order, I will call the police and report it. I will call my lawyer, my advocate, counselor, and/ or tell the courts about the violation.

h. If the police do not help, I will call my advocate or my attorney AND I will file a complaint with the Chief of the Police Department.

- i.** I can file a private criminal complaint with the district judge in the jurisdiction that the violation took place or with the District Attorney. A domestic violence advocate will help me do this.

Step 5. Job and Public Safety

I can do the following:

a. I can tell my boss, security, and _____ at work about this situation.

b. I can ask _____ to help screen my phone calls.

c. When leaving work I can do the following:

d. When I am driving home from work and problems arise, I can _____

e. If I use public transportation, I can _____

f. I will shop at different grocery stores and shopping malls at different hours than I did when I was with my partner.

g. I will use a different bank and bank at different hours than I did when I was with my partner.

h. I can also do the following: _____

Step 6. Drug and Alcohol Use.

I can enhance my safety if I do the following:

a. If I am going to use, I am going to do it in a safe place with people who understand the risk of violence and who are committed to my safety.

b. I can also _____

c. If my partner is using, I

can_____

d. I can
also_____

e. To protect my children, I
can_____

Step 7. Emotional Health

I can do the following:

a. If I feel depressed and ready to return to a potentially violent situation/ partner, I
can_____
I can call

b. When I have to talk to my partner in person or on the phone, I
can_____

c. I will use "I can..." statements and I will be assertive with people.

d. I can tell myself
"
_____" when I feel people are trying to control or abuse me.

e. I can call the following people and/ or places for
support:_____

f. Things I can do to make me feel stronger
are:_____

Your Domestic Violence Safety Plan

1. Move to a room with easy access to an exit. Don't go to the kitchen, bathroom or near possible weapons.
2. Know the quickest route out of your home. Practice escaping that way.
3. Know the quickest route out of your workplace. Practice escaping that way.
4. Pack a bag and have it ready. Keep it hidden but make it easy to grab quickly.
5. Tell your neighbors about your abuse and ask them to call the police when they hear a disturbance.
6. Have a code word to use with your kids, family and friends. They will know to call the police and get you help.
7. Know where you are going to go, if you ever have to leave.
8. Use your instincts.
9. You have the right to protect yourself and your kids.

Remember there is always someone who can help you. You are never alone.