

F. Plan to attend a women's or victim's support group for at least 2 weeks to gain support from others and learn more about yourself and the relationship.

7. IF YOU ARE A TEEN IN A VIOLENT DATING RELATIONSHIP

- A. Decide which friend, teacher, relative or police officer you can tell.
- B. Contact a victim advocate to decide how to obtain a restraining order and make a safety plan.

CHECKLIST—WHAT YOU NEED TO TAKE WHEN YOU LEAVE:

- ___ Identification
- ___ Driver's license
- ___ Children's birth certificates
- ___ Your birth certificate
- ___ Money
- ___ Lease, rental agreement, deed
- ___ Bank books
- ___ Checkbooks
- ___ Insurance papers
- ___ House and car keys
- ___ Medications
- ___ Address book
- ___ Pictures
- ___ All medical records

- ___ Social Security cards
- ___ Welfare identification
- ___ School records
- ___ Work permits
- ___ Green card
- ___ Passport
- ___ Divorce papers
- ___ Jewelry
- ___ Children's small toys
- ___ Other _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS, contact an advocate at your local Victim/Witness Unit at (269) 383-8677.

OTHER IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

- 8th District Court 384-8171
- 9th Circuit Court 383-8837
- PPO Assistance 385-6081
- Family Court 385-6000
- Kalamazoo County Prosecutor 383-8900
- Victim/Witness Unit 383-8677
- YWCA-Domestic Assault Program
- Crisis Line 385-3587
- Business Line 385-2869
- Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Dept. 383-8821
- Kalamazoo Depart of Public Safety 337-8120
- Portage Police Department 329-4567
- Kalamazoo Township Police Dept. 343-0568
- WMU Police Department 387-5555

KALAMAZOO COUNTY

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFETY PLAN

Everyone Has a Right To Be Safe!



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1. SAFETY DURING AN EXPLOSIVE INCIDENT

- A. If an argument seems unavoidable, try to have it in a room or area that has access to an exit and not in the bathroom, kitchen, or anywhere near weapons.
- B. Practice how to get out of your home safely. Identify which doors, windows, elevator or stairwell would be best.
- C. Have a packed bag ready and keep it in an undisclosed but accessible place in order to leave quickly.
- D. Identify a neighbor you can tell about the violence and ask that they call the police if they hear a disturbance coming from your home.
- E. Devise a code word to use with your children, family, friends, and neighbors when you need the police.
- F. Decide and plan for where you will go if you have to leave home (even if you do not think you will need to).
- G. Use your own instincts and judgment. If the situation is very dangerous, consider giving the abuser what they want to calm them down. You have the right to protect yourself until you are out of danger.
- H. Always remember—**YOU DO NOT DESERVE TO BE HIT OR THREATENED!**

2. SAFETY WHEN PREPARING TO LEAVE

- A. Open a savings account in your own name to start to establish or increase your independence. Think of other ways in which you can increase your independence.

- B. Leave money, an extra set of keys, copies of important documents and extra clothes with someone you trust so you can leave quickly.
- C. Determine who would be able to let you stay with them or lend you some money.
- D. Keep the shelter phone number close at hand and keep some change or a calling card on you at all times for emergency phone calls.
- E. Review your safety plan as often as possible in order to plan the safest way to leave your batterer. **REMEMBER—LEAVING YOUR BATTERER IS THE MOST DANGEROUS TIME.**

3. SAFETY IN YOUR OWN HOME

- A. Change the locks on your doors as soon as possible. Buy additional locks and safety devises to secure your windows.
- B. Discuss a safety plan with your children for when you are not with them.
- C. Inform your children's school, day care, etc. about who has permission to pick up your children.
- D. Inform neighbors and landlord that your partner no longer lives with you and that they should call the police if they see him near your house.

4. SAFETY WITH A PROTECTIVE ORDER

- A. Keep your protective order on you at all times. (When you change your purse, that should be the first thing that goes in it).
- B. Call the police if your partner breaks the protective order.

- C. Think of alternative ways to keep safe if the police are not able to immediately respond.
- D. Inform family, friends and neighbors that you have a protective order in effect.

5. SAFETY ON THE JOB AND IN PUBLIC

- A. Decide who at work you will inform of your situation. This should include office or building security (provide a picture of your batterer if possible).
- B. Arrange to have someone screen your telephone calls if possible.
- C. Devise a safety plan for when you leave work. Have someone escort you to your car, bus, or train. Use a variety of routes to go home by, if possible. Think about what you would do if something happened while going home (i.e., in your car, on the bus, etc.).

6. YOUR SAFETY AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

- A. If you are thinking of returning to a potentially abusive situation, discuss an alternative plan with someone you trust.
- B. If you have to communicate with your partner, determine the safest way to do so.
- C. Have positive thoughts about yourself and be assertive with others about your needs.
- D. Read books, articles, and poems to help you feel stronger.
- E. Decide who you can call to talk freely and openly to give you the support you need.