

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.

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.

#### **VII. IF YOU ARE A TEEN IN A VIOLENT DATING RELATIONSHIP**

Decide which friend, teacher, relative, or police officer you can tell.

#### **CHECKLIST – WHAT YOU NEED TO TAKE WHEN YOU LEAVE:**

- Identification
- Driver's license
- Child's birth certificate
- Your birth certificate
- Money
- Lease, rental agreement, house deed
- Bank books
- Checkbooks
- Insurance papers
- House and car keys
- Medications
- Small sellable objects
- Address book
- Pictures
- Medical records (all family members)
- Social security card
- Welfare identification
- School records
- Work permits
- Green card
- Passport
- Divorce papers
- Jewelry
- Child's small toys

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND OPTIONS, contact an advocate at your local court or shelter or one of the following numbers:

#### **BATTERED WOMEN'S SHELTERS:**

Genesis Women's Shelter	214.942.2998
The Family Place	214.941.1991
New Beginning Center	972.276.0057
Brighter Tomorrows	972.262.8383
Mosaic Family Services	214.823.4434
Salvation Army	214.424.7208

#### **POLICE:**

Emergency	911
Dallas PD Family Violence Unit	214.671.4304
Irving PD Family Violence Unit	972.721.6555
Dallas City Attorney	214.670.4439

#### **DALLAS COUNTY D.A.'S OFFICE:**

Family Violence Division	214.653.3528
Protective Orders	214.653.3528

#### **SUPPORT SERVICES:**

Community Help Line	211
Nat'l Domestic Violence Hotline	1.800.799.SAFE
Adult & Child Abuse Hotline	1.800.252.5400
VIP/Rape Crisis Center	214.590.0430
Dallas Area Rape Crisis Center	972.641.RAPE
Suicide Crisis Center	214.828.1000
Contact Dallas	972.233.2233
Women's Legal Advocacy Center	1.800.374.HOPE
Legal Aid of Northwest Texas	214.748.1234
LAW Center	214.827.1000
Catholic Charities (Immigration)	214.634.7182
Human Rights Initiative (Immigr.)	214.855.0520
Dallas Resource Center	214.528.0144
Alcoholics Anonymous	214.887.6699
Al-Anon & Alateen	214.363.0461

#### **COUNSELING SERVICES:**

Genesis Outreach	214.559.2050
New Beginning Center	972.276.0423
Brighter Tomorrows	972.263.0506
The Family Place	214.443.7704
Mosaic Family Services	214.821.5393

## Dallas County District Attorney's Office



## Domestic Violence Safety Plan

*EVERYONE HAS A  
RIGHT TO BE SAFE!*  
2015



## **I. 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 a 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 don't think you will need to).
- G. Use your own instincts and judgement. If the situation is very dangerous, consider giving the abuser what he wants to calm him down. You have the right to protect yourself until you are out of danger.
- H. Always remember – **YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE HIT OR THREATENED!**

## **II. 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, a calling card or a cell phone 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.**

## **III. SAFETY IN YOUR OWN HOME**

- A. Change the locks on your doors as soon as possible. Buy additional locks and safety devices to secure your windows.
- B. Discuss a safety plan with your children for when you are not with them.
- C. Inform your child's school, daycare, etc., about who has permission to pick up your child.
- 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 home.
- E. Never call the abuser from your home. If he has caller ID, he may be able to locate your residence.

## **IV. 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 violates the protective order.
- C. Think of alternative ways to keep safe if the police do not respond right away.
- D. Inform family, friends, and neighbors that you have a protective order in effect.

## **V. SAFETY ON THE JOB AND IN PUBLIC**

- A. Decide whom 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.).

## **VI. YOUR SAFETY & 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 self and be assertive with others about your needs.