

## Strategies for Safety: Considerations for Individuals Experiencing Family Violence



### **Thank You**

Strategies for Safety could not have been possible without the contribution and support from the Family Violence Police Advisory Committee (PAC), Interdepartmental Committee on Family Violence and Bullying (ICFVB), Integrated Risk and Threat Assessment Centre (ITRAC), participating women's shelters, Police based Victim Service Units and Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims of Crime Fund.

The co-operation, support and assistance provided by all those who were consulted are greatly appreciated.

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http://justice.alberta.ca

For toll-free access to Alberta government offices, dial 310-0000 and then enter the ten digit phone number, or press 0 and hold for operator assistance.

ISBN 978-0-7785-8829-0 March 2013 This booklet has been designed for professionals working with individuals experiencing family violence. Distribution of this material is not recommended as it may be overwhelming for individuals in crisis to utilize.

Important reference and safety information is available for those impacted by family violence at the following link: http://www.solgps.alberta.ca/safe\_communities/community\_awareness/family\_violence/Documents/GUIDE-QuickRef\_2013\_03\_27.pdf

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### What is Family Violence?

Family violence is the abuse of power within relationships of family, trust or dependency that endangers the survival, security or well-being of another person. Family violence can include spousal abuse (married or common-law), elder abuse and neglect, child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse, parental abuse and exposure to abuse of others in the family.¹ Family Violence is not gender specific; victims can be male or female and include sexual minorities, dating couples, spouses (married or common law), people in same-sex relationships, children, teens, people with disabilities and older adults.

### What does family violence look like?

Family violence may include some or all of the following behaviours: physical abuse, psychological abuse, criminal harassment/stalking, verbal abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, and spiritual abuse. The following are some tactics that are used by abusers to control their partners but it is not a complete list.

### **Physical Abuse**

- · Pushed, shoved or kicked
- · Slapped or bitten
- Strangled
- · Hit or punched
- Locked out or deny access to the home
- · Denied help when ill, injured or pregnant
- · Weapon or objects used against the individual
- · By physical force, not being allowed to leave
- · Abandoned in a dangerous situation

### Sexual Abuse

- · Forced to have sex or watch sexual acts
- Forced to perform sexual acts or have sexual acts performed on them
- Forced to have sex after a physical assault, when they are ill or as a condition of the relationship

### **Emotional & Psychological Abuse**

- · Threatened to harm the individual, their family or pets
- · Beliefs, race, heritage, class, religion, or sexual orientation ridiculed
- · Manipulated with lies and contradictions
- · Being convinced they are to blame for the abuse
- Stalked

### **Economic Abuse**

- · Denied access to bank accounts, credit cards or vehicle
- · Partner controls all of the finances
- · Prevented from getting or keeping a job or from going to school
- · Limits access to health, prescription or dental insurance

Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying. (2008). Alberta Roundtable on Family Violence and Bullying: Taking Action on Family Violence and Bullying Report to Albertans 2008.

### **How To Use This Guide**

This booklet is designed to provide safety planning information to professionals and front line responders who are working with individuals impacted by family violence. It provides specific information if the individual is staying in the relationship, leaving the relationship, or has left the relationship. Each section provides questions that frontline workers can ask when discussing safety strategies with individuals. In addition to the booklet, quick reference pages provide individuals with take home information on how to stay safe depending on their current situation and Internet safety tips.

Safety planning is one of many strategies used by survivors and service providers to reduce harm. Developing safety considerations can assist individuals to feel safer and can provide life saving strategies; however, each case should be personalized based on an ongoing analysis of the risks the individual is faced with. This booklet provides safety considerations and options that take into account individual diversity and the complexity of people's lives but does not promote a specific safety planning method.

### **Notes on the Safety Planning Process:**

- Since every situation is different this is a not a "one size fits all" document. Family violence interventions must be case-specific. Preparation for safety is best conducted as an active partnership between an individual and an advocate or other service provider trained in family violence. Safety planning is also best accompanied with other strategies and tools including risk and threat assessments and individual support or counselling.
- Safety strategies should be in plain language and available in different learning styles such as role play, pictures, calendars, and/or diagrams. Safety strategies should be practiced and discussed repeatedly with victims until they feel comfortable. 1
- Ask the victim what strategies they have used in the past and in their current situation. Also consider their perception of threat and psychological wellbeing.<sup>2</sup>
- Help each victim identify how their specific needs (i.e. pregnant, lives in a rural area, is new to Canada, has children, has a disability) may impact their safety planning and risks. The check list on page 3 can help identify the victim's specific needs.
- Remember to tell clients to keep any safety planning documents in a safe yet accessible place and hidden from the abusive partner.
- Safety strategies may need to be reviewed and/or updated periodically and/or when circumstances change.
- Victim Service Units are part of a collaborative team of professionals led by police. Victim Service Units in Alberta assist in safety planning in partnership with police and in collaboration with the victim. It is important that police lead the process as they identify areas of risk through the investigation which guides the development of strategies for safety. Victim Service workers will work closely with the victim to understand and support their needs.
- Victim Service Units and Police members should be familiar with their police services internal policies regarding roles and responsibilities on safety planning.

Journal of Social Work Education, 41, 331-352.

Hoog, C. (2003). Model Protocol on Safety Planning for Domestic Violence Victims with Disabilities. Washington: Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Retrieved on September 3, 2009 from http://www.wscadv.org/resourcesPublications.cfm?ald=596864FE-C298-58F6-06AAF17D99897F66. /iolence. Retrieved on September 3, 2009 from http://www.wscauv.org/resourcesr upilcations.cimisia—55666 in 2 2226 i

### **Safety Strategies Checklist**

To get started with discussing safety strategies, it is helpful to find out what the individual has currently been doing to protect themselves and their children. The following questions may help identify where the individual is at with their safety. This checklist also indicates where to start in this booklet.

| Are you currently living with your abusive partner / family member?  If "Yes", are you considering:  ☐ Staying in the relationship (see page 5)  ☐ Leaving the relationship (see page 6)  ☐ Unsure at this time | ∐Yes         | □No        |
|---|--------------|------------|
| If "No":  Have you already left the relationship? (see page 7)  |              |            |
| Do you believe that you are being stalked? (see page 9)   | □Yes         | □No        |
| Do you have any children? (see page 8)  If yes, how many children do you have?  What are the ages of your children?   | □Yes         | □No        |
| Do the children currently live with you?  Does your abusive partner have contact with the children?   | □Yes<br>□Yes | □No<br>□No |
| Do you have a vehicle?  | □Yes         | □No        |
| Where are you currently living? ☐ City ☐ Rural ☐ First Nation / Metis Settlement  |              |            |
| Do you own or have access to a computer? (see Online Safety)  | □Yes         | □No        |
| Do you have a cell phone?   | □Yes         | □No        |
| Do you have any pets? (see page 6)  | □Yes         | □No        |
| Do you have any health / disability issues? (see page 10)   | □Yes         | □No        |
| Are there any language barriers? (see page 13)  | □Yes         | □No        |
| Is citizenship an issue? (see page 11)  | □Yes         | □No        |
| Do you know what a safety pack is? (see page 4) If yes, do you have a safety pack prepared?   | □Yes         | □No        |
| Do you have a place in your home that you feel the safest? Where is it? (see page 4)  | □Yes         | □No        |
| Do you have any friends or family nearby that you feel safe with and that you feel comfortable going to for support? (see page 15)  | □Yes         | □No        |

### What's a Safe Room?

- A **safe room** is a place where an individual and/or children can go if there is a violent episode in the home. Ideally, it is a room on the ground floor for easy exit and/or to call to the attention of neighbours closeby. The room should have a lock on the inside of the door and a phone. It is best to consider a room where there are fewer things that could become weapons.
- It is best to avoid rooms with tile or hardwood floors, kitchens, bathrooms, sheds and garages.

### What's a Safety Pack?

- A safety pack is an emergency kit of important items to have when fleeing an abuser. The safety pack should be stored in a safe place and available when an individual and their children need to flee quickly.
- A safety pack may need to be stored outside of the house and/or with someone the individual trusts (e.g. family, friend, trusted professional, shelter worker).
- Items with a \* indicate important items that the individual should keep in their safety pack. All other items are considerations to have on hand.

| ☐ Identification for victim and children *                  |
|---|
| - Driver's License *  |
| - Passport *  |
| - Health Card & Provincial drug plan cards *                |
| - Birth Certificate *                                       |
| - Social Insurance Card *                                   |
| - Status Card *   |
| ☐ Copies of custody orders / restraining orders / Emergency |
| Protection Orders (EPO) *                                   |
| ☐ Marriage License or Divorce Decree *                      |
| ☐ Recent picture of all family members *                    |
| ☐ Immigration or work permit papers and visa *              |
| ☐ Cash, debit card, and/or credit cards                     |
| ☐ Medication, hearing aids, glasses                         |
| ☐ Keys (house, car, work, safety deposit box)               |
| ☐ Extra set of clothing                                     |
| ☐ Address book with important contacts                      |
| ☐ Baby food, formula, diapers                               |
| ☐ Small saleable objects (jewelry)                          |

### INDIVIDUAL WANTS TO STAY IN THE RELATIONSHIP

The following section provides safety strategies that are relevant to individuals who choose to stay with their abusive partner. These strategies can also be used in high risk groups such as individuals experiencing stalking/criminal harassment. These strategies are preventative measures that individuals should consider when assessing personal habits in order to increase their awareness of their own circumstances. These suggestions are provided for consideration but may not be possible or appropriate in all situations.

### When living with the abuser:

- Has the victim considered where all guns, knives, or other weapons are kept? Have precautions been taken to lock the weapons up or make them hard to reach?
- Has the victim prepared a safety pack? Refer to page 4. Is it hidden in a safe place where the abusive partner will not likely find it?
- Has the victim disclosed his/her situation to friends, family members and/or trusted neighbours? It may be helpful for the victim to make a plan with them, when their assistance is needed. Having a code word or signal, such as flashing lights, having porch lights on, or hanging something out the window, will help your friend, family member and/or trusted neighbour to know that they are to call for help.
- Is there a signal or code word that has been created to let the children know to get out and go to a prearranged place of safety?
- Is there an escape plan to leave the house and a back-up plan? Has the victim practiced how to get out safely and rehearsed the plans with the children? Have they practiced the plan in the dark?
- Is there a safe room in the home in case of a violent episode? Refer to page 4.
- Does the victim know how to protect himself/herself during a violent attack? It may be helpful for the individual to make themselves into a smaller target. For example, diving into a corner and curling up into a ball. Protecting the face and putting arms around each side of the head, wrapping fingers together.
- Does the victim have a list of local resources that he/she can access quickly and easily?
- Does the victim know that they can call the Family Violence Information Line at 310-1818 for help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week? Does the victim know that information is available in different languages?
- Does the victim have access to a personal cell phone or cordless phone?
- Does the victim know that they should call 911 if they feel threatened?

### INDIVIDUAL IS PLANNING TO LEAVE THE ABUSER

Deciding to leave an abusive relationship can be a very dangerous time and professional assistance should be sought. It is a good idea for the individual to have a plan of how they will leave and where they will go.

### When an individual is getting ready to end the relationship:

- Does the victim know that they can contact police and the local shelter to ask for assistance in leaving?
- Has the victim prepared a safety pack and know where to access it easily and quickly? Refer to page 4.
- Does the victim have any pets? Have arrangements been made for someone to temporarily take care of the pets? Does the victim know that a shelter may help with this or they can contact the local Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) or humane society for assistance?
- Does the victim have access to money or has money been set aside in case they need to flee the relationship? Is the money hidden in a safe place or with a trusted family member or friend?
- Does the victim have any injuries? Do they know that they can go to their doctor or an emergency room to report what happened?
- Has the victim kept any evidence of the abuse? Such evidence may include:
  - Any pictures of victim's bruises or other injuries.
  - Any pictures that show damage to the home or property.
  - Any records kept by doctors or the police that document the abuse.
  - A journal of the abuse or stalking log. Record dates, events, threats made, and violent attacks.
- Does the victim have a plan to get themselves and their children out safely?
- Does the victim know how to clear "dialed" or "received" telephone numbers on their telephone to avoid the abuser from using redial?

### Leaving the abusive situation:

- Does the victim have a plan for leaving and has the plan been rehearsed?
- Have they considered trying to leave when the abuser is not around and to take all children with them?
- Has the victim told a friend or family member of their intentions to leave and the plan of action?
- Has the victim spoken to a shelter or police on how to leave safely?
- Has the victim contacted their local shelter? Does the victim know that it may be much safer to stay at a shelter than places where the abuser can find the victim and children?
- Has the victim prepared a safety pack and know where to get it when it is time to flee? Refer to page 4.

### INDIVIDUAL HAS ALREADY LEFT THE ABUSER

### Once the individual has separated from the abusive partner:

- Has the individual spoken to a shelter, police or family violence assistance agency regarding their situation?
- Does the victim know what a protection order is? Do they know how to get one? Do they know that protective orders may not always be enough to keep themselves and their children safe and that they should continue to take other safety planning steps?
- Are the children also listed on the protection order?
- Has a copy of the protection order been sent to the children's school, daycare, etc.?
- Does the victim have a lawyer or has the victim contacted the legal aid clinic to find out what actions can be taken to be protected?
- Are there any criminal court proceedings? Does the victim's lawyer know about this?
- Has the victim obtained a new unlisted telephone number with call blocking features since being separated from the abusive partner?
- Has the victim taken steps to open a new bank account since being separated from the abuser? Are there still any remaining joint accounts that the victim has with the abuser?
- Does the victim have a current photo of the abuser and the children?
- Who has the victim told about their situation? Employers, trusted neighbour, friends or family members?
- Has the victim taken steps to change their daily routine? For example, going to a different grocery store or taking a different route to work, school or home.
- Does the victim know that they can seek assistance from the police or shelter if there is a need to return to the residence where the abuser resides?
- What support networks does the victim have?

### INDIVIDUALS WITH CHILDREN

- Do the children know how to use the telephone to call for help in case of emergencies?
- Do the children know that they can seek help from neighbours? Have the children been taught how to use a pay phone or a cell phone to call for help?
- Do the children know their full name and address?
- Do the children know that if they are unable to talk to a dispatcher when calling for help, they should try to leave the phone off the hook?
- Do the children know what room in the house is safe to go to in case violence escalates?
- Does the victim have a code word with the children that is used in case of emergency?
- Is the school or daycare informed of the situation?
- Does the school or daycare have any documentation that specifies in writing who is permitted to pick up the children?
- Does the abuser have visitation rights with the children? Have arrangements been made for the children to be picked up and dropped off somewhere other than the home?
- Is the victim aware that some locations in Alberta have safe visitation sites?
- Has the victim discussed and practiced the safety plan with the children?
- Do the children have any support networks?

### STALKING STALKING

### STALKING CONSIDERATIONS

### If the individual is in immediate danger:

Does the victim know that they should call 911? Does the victim know they can seek safety from the following places?

- Police / RCMP Detachments.
- Residence of trusted friends or family. The location should be unknown to the stalker.
- Shelters or crisis centre.
- Local churches or religious sites.
- Public places such as a busy shopping mall or drive thru outlets (Stalkers may be less inclined towards violence in public places).

Does the victim know what to do if they cannot get out of the immediate location of danger?

Does the victim know what to do if they do not have access to a telephone to call for help?

### If the individual is NOT in immediate danger:

Does the victim keep a log to record incidences that occur?

Have the police been notified about incidents of stalking?

### SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

### **Specialized Services for Aboriginal People**

Specialized services are available for Aboriginal people in Alberta dealing with family violence:

- Native Counselling Services of Alberta offers many programs and services to help Aboriginal families.
   Contact (780) 451-4002 or visit http://www.ncsa.ca/online/
- Native Friendship Centres can help you connect to programs and services for people who have been abused or who abuse others. Call (780) 423-3138 or visit: http://anfca.com/
- Individuals on Métis Settlement can contact their Region 10 Métis Settlements Child and Family Service Authority (CFSA) to locate a Positive Living Outreach Worker for support and referrals to services.

Visit: http://www.metissettlementscfsa.gov.ab.ca/home/565.cfm

### SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

### **Protection for Persons in Care Act**

Protection for Persons in Care investigates reports of abuse or safety concerns for adults in publicly funded care facilities including hospitals, seniors' lodges and nursing homes. The Protection for Persons in Care Act, enacted in 1998, makes it a requirement to report any suspicion of abuse to a toll-free reporting line or to local police authorities. Call 1-888-357-9339.

For more information, visit: http://www.seniors.gov.ab.ca/CSS/persons\_in\_care/index.asp.

If the victim is planning on going to a shelter, some important questions should be asked including:

• Does the shelter accommodate people with disabilities (including service animals, special equipment, medical companions, etc.)?

If the individual requires a personal assistant/caregiver:

• Are personal assistant/caregiver services available?

If the abuser is not a personal assistant/caregiver:

- Can personal assistant/caregiver accompany individuals to the shelter?
- Are there gender restrictions for personal assistant/caregiver?

### SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA

What citizenship status does the victim currently hold?

### **Individuals with Permanent Resident Status**

- A permanent resident is an immigrant (also referred to as landed immigrant) or a protected person (refugee) who has successfully applied to live in Canada permanently and can become a full Canadian citizen.
- Permanent residents will have received documentation from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) that proves their permanent status in Canada. These documents include: Permanent Resident (PR) Card, Record of Landing, and Confirmation of Permanent Residence.

### **Family Class Sponsorship**

Many immigrants arrive in Canada under family class sponsorship. This means that a Canadian citizen or
permanent resident may sponsor their spouse, common-law partner or conjugal partner, or dependent
children to come to Canada as permanent residents.

**Did you know:** Many individuals who are permanent residents or Canadian citizens believe that they do not have any rights during their sponsorship period. They believe that they must live with their sponsor throughout the sponsorship period. However, this is not true. Individuals with permanent resident status cannot lose their status or be removed from Canada if they leave an abusive relationship. The same applies to individuals who were sponsored to Canada by their abusive partner. The sponsor cannot have the individual deported for leaving them.

Contact Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) for more information: 1-888-242-2100.

### Individuals who DO NOT have Permanent Resident Status

- Individuals who have come to Canada under work or study permits, or have been allowed to enter Canada as visitors may not have immigration status. This group includes: individuals still waiting for their "inland spousal sponsorship" to be processed and do not have temporary residency, refugee claimants, and live-in caregivers.
- Individuals who are not permanent residents should get legal advice before making any decisions about leaving the abusive partner. They should also seek legal advice before they go to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC). There may be legal issues affecting the person's situation and they may also be at risk of being removed from Canada.

**Did you know:** Inland Spousal Sponsorship are individuals who are already in Canada, with or without temporary status and their application is processed in Canada. If CIC believes that the marriage or relationship is considered genuine and all sponsorship requirements are met, the individual can be given permanent residence. An individual whose application is dependent on their abusive spouse or partner, risks being removed from Canada if they leave the relationship. **It is important that they get legal help immediately.** 

### SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR SENIORS

Elder abuse, or the abuse of older adults, is often defined as any act or omission that harms a senior or jeopardizes his or her health or welfare. The World Health Organization defines abuse of older adults as "a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring in any relationship where there is an expectation of trust that causes harm or distress to an older person". Elder abuse can take place in the home, in other residential settings, or in the community by a spouse, family member, caregiver, friend or other individuals in positions of power or trust.

The following are Safety Planning resources for older adults:

http://www.albertaelderabuse.ca/resourceDocs/Safety%20Plan%20EAIT%202007%2003%2001.pdf

http://www.seniorscouncil.net/uploads/files/Documents/Safety Plan for Older Adults.pdf

http://www.seniors.gov.on.ca/en/elderabuse/docs/safetyplanning.pdf

### SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PETS

Family violence affects all family members, including pets. For many victims of family violence, their relationship to their pets is the strongest positive connection with another living being. In abusive relationships, pets are often targeted by the abusive partner and threatened or killed in order to exert power and maintain control over the victim. In part, such behaviour could occur out of jealousy or as a cruel attempt to inflict hurt on the victim. When considering safety strategies, the safety of a pet must be taken into consideration, especially when victims are faced with the decision to leave an abusive situation. If pets are not taken into consideration, individuals experiencing abuse are placed at higher risk because they may delay leaving their abusive partner to ensure their pets' safety.

- Does the victim have close friends or family members that they trust who might be willing to take the pets temporarily?
- Is the victim aware that there may be local agencies that may be able to temporarily shelter pets or place them in foster homes?
- Does the victim know their pets' hiding spot so you don't have to spend time looking for them in the case of emergency?

### **ADDITIONAL BARRIERS:**

Due to the complexity of the lives of individuals, the following are additional factors and barriers that should be taken into consideration when discussing a safety plan. Each area contains resources that may help the individual seek safety.

### **Language Barriers**

An inability to communicate in the dominant language could leave an individual defenseless against abuse and exploitation. Language barriers can augment both dependence and isolation, making disclosure much more difficult and obtaining access to services significantly more challenging.

### **Helpful Resources:**

The Family Violence Information Line 310-1818. Help is available in over 170 languages.

### **Cultural Factors**

Cultural taboos against revealing "private" family issues can create barriers to escaping abuse. Individuals may feel reluctant to tell someone as they may feel that it 'brings shame' to their families. Certain ethno-cultural beliefs and values can also make individuals feel bound to silence.

### **Helpful Resources:**

Family Violence Information Line: 310-1818. Help is available in over 170 languages.

### Citizenship

Immigration law issues can be tough to navigate for individuals without a permanent residency status. Many individuals in this situation may be concerned that they will be deported and lose the right to keep their children. Individuals may also be afraid of what may happen to the person abusing them.

### **Helpful Resources:**

Citizenship and Immigration Canada 1-888-242-2100

### **Social Isolation**

Individuals experiencing abuse can find themselves socially isolated, especially if they face any of the barriers above. Physical limitations such as living in a rural community or on a First Nation or Metis Settlement can also contribute to feeling socially isolated. The absence of a social network can also make abuse easier to hide or more difficult to seek the help they need.

### **Helpful Resources:**

Family Violence Information Line: 310-1818. Toll free anywhere in Alberta. Available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

### **Financial Dependency**

Some individuals are financially dependent on the abuser. The result is an increased risk for potential exploitation which may contribute to fear of leaving the abusive situation or seeking assistance. An individual who is financially dependent on the abuser faces the additional barrier of lacking access to cash or bank and credit accounts when they contemplate leaving the abusive situation or seeking assistance.

### **Helpful Resources:**

Alberta Works Program for Individuals Fleeing Abuse 1-866-644-5135

# 

### LEGAL RESOURCES AND CONSIDERATIONS

### **Protection Orders**

Protection Orders are orders made by the Court which prohibit the abuser or stalker from contacting or coming within a set distance of the victim, their home, work and other places that the victim regularly goes to. Although these orders may serve to deter the abuser or stalker, it is important to note that it cannot ensure a victim's complete safety. For these reasons, it is important to also have a safety plan in place.

- Has the victim sought legal advice or contacted a shelter for more information on protection orders?
- Does the victim know that they can get information on protective orders by calling the Alberta Law Line at 1-866-845-3425 or online at www.legalaid.ab.ca?
- Is there a protection order against the abuser?
- Are there any shared custody or access arrangements? Has the victim talked to a victim service worker or lawyer to determine how important information can be transferred without breaching the order?

### Safety when going to court

Does the victim have a plan on how to get to and leave court safely?

The following are strategies that can help victims going to and from court safely:

### **Getting to court:**

- Plan on getting to court early, before the scheduled appearance. This will make it safer to get into the building and may help avoid running into the abuser.
- Do not go to court alone. Friend, family and support workers should be considered.

### **Inside the Courthouse:**

- Stay close to a friend, family member or support worker while inside the courthouse.
- Find someone who knows the court well such as a victim advocate or family violence worker.
   Ask them where exits are located in the building.
- Courthouse security should be informed if the abusive partner tries to approach or harass the individual.

### **Leaving the Courthouse:**

Ask security to escort the individual from the building to the car or other transportation.

### **Seek assistance from your local Victim Service Units**

• If the individual finds themselves navigating through the complex criminal justice system, they should obtain a copy of the **Victims of Crime Protocol** by visiting the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General website at www.victims.alberta.ca This booklet helps to explain what victims can expect throughout the criminal justice process.

### **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

### **Financial Support For Albertans Fleeing Abuse**

Albertans in abusive situations can get help 24 hours a day, seven days a week through Alberta Works.

Tel: (780) 644-5135 in Edmonton

### 1-866-644-5135 (Toll Free in Alberta)

Provided the program's eligibility criteria are met, these are some of the financial supports that are available:

### **Getting to Safety**

- Emergency transportation to a safe place and/or emergency accommodation.
- Relocation costs within Alberta or Canada are covered if a person must move out of their community to escape the threat of violence.

### **Setting up a New Household**

- A \$1000 allowance is issued to help set up a new home.
- Damage deposit to secure a residence is covered.
- Financial help provides for basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter etc.

### **Starting a New life**

• Financial aid for phone, transportation, employment and training services to help find jobs, ensure access to additional supports, family health coverage.

### www.employment.alberta.ca/albertaworks

### **Victims of Crime Financial Benefits Program**

10th Floor, 10365 - 97 Street NW

Edmonton, AB T5J 3W7

Tel: (780) 427-7217 Fax: (780) 422-4213

**Toll-free through Service Alberta: 310-0000** 

For information on the Financial Benefits Program, restitution and other programs for victims, please visit their website:

### http://www.victims.alberta.ca

The application forms are also available on-line through this site.

# 

### FAMILY VIOLENCE CRISIS AND INFORMATION LINES

### 211 Edmonton **Outside Edmonton dial 482-INFO (4636)**

Provides access to information and services for Edmonton and area

### **Alberta Association of Sexual Assault Services (AASAS)**

(403) 237-6905 ext 249 Email: mailbox@aasas.ca Website: www.aasas.ca

### **AASAS Locations:**

### **Calgary and Surrounding Area**

Tel: (403) 237-5888

### **Edmonton**

Tel: (780) 423-4357

TTY (Telephone device for the deaf)

Tel: (780) 421-1482

### Fort McMurray and Surrounding Area

Tel: (780) 791-6708

### **Grande Prairie and Surrounding Area**

Tel: 1-888-377-322

### Lethbridge and Surrounding Area

Canadian Mental Health 24 Hour

**Distress Line** 

Tel: (403) 327-7905

### Lloydminster and Surrounding Area

Tel: (305) 825-9557

### **Medicine Hat and Surrounding Area**

Alberta Mental Health Board Help Line

1-877-303-2642

Phoenix Safe House Crisis Line

1-800-661-7949

### **Sherwood Park and Strathcona County**

Tel: (780) 449-0900

### Alberta Council of Women's Shelters Tel: 1-866-331-3933

Website: www.acws.ca

To locate a shelter or seniors shelter, connect you with a crisis counsellor or to obtain more information about ACWS.

### **Bullying Help Line**

Phone: 1-888-456-2323

### **Child Abuse Hotline** 1-800-387-KIDS (5437)

### **Connect Family and Sexual Abuse Network**

Tel: (403) 237-5888

Toll Free in Alberta: 1-877-237-5888

### **Homefront Calgary**

Tel: (403) 206-2100 ext 243

### John Howard Victims Assistance Program

Tel: (780) 422-0721

Provides accompanied court preparation for domestic violence cases.

### **Family Violence Info Line** 310-1818

(no area code needed)

- Toll free anywhere in Alberta
- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Trained workers available to provide callers information on family violence and all calls are confidential
- Help is available in over 170 languages

### **Today Family Violence Help Centre Edmonton**

Tel: (780) 455-6880

Disclaimer: contact information current as of March, 2013.

### **LEGAL RESOURCES**

### **Alberta Law Line**

Tel: (403) 644-7777

Toll Free: 1-866-845-3425

Website: www.lawline.legalaid.ab.ca

### **Aboriginal Legal Aid Services**

Siksika Nation Program (Legal Aid Alberta) Siksika, AB

Tel: (403) 734-5123

### Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, Victims Services

Tel: (780) 427-3460 or dial 310-0000 toll free access

Fax: (780) 422-4213

Website: http://www.victims.alberta.ca
Provides a listing of victim service units throughout Alberta that offer information, support and referrals to victims of crime.

### **Calgary Legal Guidance**

100, 840 - 7th Avenue, S.W. Calgary, AB T2P 3G2

Tel: (403) 234-9266 Website: www.clg.ab.ca

### **Emergency Protection Order Program**

Edmonton: (780) 422-9222 Calgary: (403) 355-4868

Or call the Alberta Law Line at 1-866-845-3425

Website: www.legalaid.ab.ca

Provides free legal information, services, support, help with protection order and court procedures.

### **Family Mediation Services**

Family Justice Services Edmonton: (780) 427-8343 Calgary: (403) 297-6981

Rest of province: (403) 340-7187

Dial 310-0000 toll free access (no area code needed) Website: http://www.albertacourts.ab.ca/familyjus-

ticeservices/

### **Legal Aid Alberta**

Legal Services Centre Locations can be reached by calling toll free: 1-866-845-3425

Website: www.legalaid.ab.ca

### **Native Counselling Services of Alberta**

The Family Court Work Program 10975 - 124 Street Edmonton, AB T5M 0H9 Tel: (780) 451-4002

Public Legal Education Network of Alberta

5520 - 48A Avenue Red Deer, AB T4N 3V6 Tel: (403) 343-3712

Website: www.ncsa.ca

### **RESOURCES FOR SENIORS**

### Alberta Elder Abuse Awareness Network

Website: http://www.albertaelderabuse.ca ⇔ For general information about elder abuse and community resources visit the website.

### Calgary Kerby Elder Abuse Line 24 Hour Crisis Line

Tel: (403) 705-3250

### **Community Response to Abuse and Neglect of Elders**

Medicine Hat and Area Tel: (403) 529-4798

### Edmonton's Seniors Abuse Helpline 24 Hour Crisis Line

Tel: (780) 454-8888

### Elder Abuse Resource and Supports Program (EARS)/ Elder Abuse Intake Line:

Tel: (780) 477-2929

### **Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization**

Tel: (403) 320-2222 (Ext 25)

### Medicine Hat Community Response to Abuse and Neglect of Elders (CRANE)

Tel: (403) 529-4798 (24 hours)

### **Native Seniors Centre**

Cottage East 10107-134 Avenue Edmonton, AB T5E 1J2 Tel: (780) 476-6595

### Office of the Public Guardian

Tel: 1-877-427-4525

Provides decision making mechanisms for individuals who are unable to make personal non-financial decisions for themselves.

### Office of the Public Trustee

Toll free anywhere in Alberta

Tel: 310-0000

Edmonton area: (780) 427-2744 Calgary area: (403) 297-6541

Protects the financial interests of vulnerable
 Albertans by administering their estates.

### **Protection for Persons in Care**

Tel: 1-888-357-9339

To report abuse in publicly funded care facilities.

### Red Deer Helping Elder Abuse Reduction (H.E.A.R.) Resource Information Line

Tel: 403-346-6076 or 1-877-454-2580 (toll free) Available 24 hours a day to speak to an advocate.

### Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton (SAGE) Seniors Safe House

Tel: (780) 702-1520

For 24 hour support call the Seniors Abuse Helpline:

Tel: (780) 454-8888

Website: http://site1.mysage.ca.webguidecms.ca/

help/seniors-safe-house

### ABORIGINAL FAMILY VIOLENCE COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### **Awo Taan Healing Lodge**

Calgary, AB

Tel: (403) 531-1972 or (403) 531-1976 Website: http://www.awotaan.org/

### **Bigstone Women's Emergency Shelter**

Wabasca, AB

Tel: (780) 891-3333

### **Crossroads Resource Centre and Women's Shelter**

Fairview, AB

Tel: (780) 835-2120

### **Eagle Women's Emergency Shelter**

Black Diamond, AB

Tel: (403) 933-3370

### **Ermineskin Women's Emergency Shelter**

Hobbema, AB

Tel: (780) 420-0008 ext. 228

### **Hope Haven Women's Shelter**

Lac La Biche AB

Tel: (780) 623-3104

Crisis Line: (780) 623-3100 Toll Free: 1-866-727-4673

### Lethbridge Native Women's Transition Home Society

Lethbridge, AB

Tel: (403) 329 - 6506

### **Mikisew Cree Women's Shelter**

Fort Chipewan, AB

Tel: (780) 697-3322

### **Peace River Regional Women's Shelter**

Peace River, AB

Tel: (780) 624-3466

### **Pincher Creek Women's Emergency Shelter**

Pincher Creek, AB

Crisis support line: (403) 627-2114

### **Eagle's Nest Stoney Family Shelter**

Morley, AB

Tel: (403) 881-2000

### Sucker Creek Women's Emergency Shelter

Enilda, AB

Crisis support line: (780) 523-4357

### Yellowhead Emergency Shelter for Women

Hinton, AB

Tel: (780) 865-4359

Toll-free: 1-800-661-0937

Crisis support line: (780) 865-5133

### IMMIGRANT SERVICE AGENCIES IN ALBERTA

### **Citizenship and Immigration Canada**

Toll free anywhere in Canada: 1-888-242-2100 Information on immigration status, process and the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

### **BROOKS**

### **Brooks and County Immigration Services**

Unit 2, 500 Cassils Road East Brooks, AB T1R 1M6 Tel: (403) 362-0404

### CALGARY

### Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies (AAISA)

915 - 33 Street NE Calgary, AB T2A 6T2 Tel: (403) 273-2962 Email: contact@aaisa.ca

Website: http://www.aaisa.ca

### **Calgary Bridge Foundation for Youth**

201, 1112B - 40 Avenue, N.E. Calgary, AB T2E 5T8

Tel: (403) 230 - 7745

E-mail: admin@calgarybridgefoundation.com Website: http://www.calgarybridgefoundation.com Hours of operation: Mon to Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm

### **Calgary Catholic Immigration Society**

5th floor, 1111-11 Avenue SW

Calgary, AB T2R 0G5 Tel: (403) 262-2006

E-mail: contact@ccis-calgary.ab.ca Website: http://www.ccis-calgary.ab.ca

Hours of operation: Mon to Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm,

### **Calgary Immigrant Education Society**

1723, 40 Street, S.E. Calgary, AB T2A 7Y3 Tel: (403) 235-3666

E-mail: info@immigrant-education.ca

Website: http://www.immigrant-education.ca

Hours of operation:

Mon to Thurs 8:30am - 9:00pm, Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm,

Sat 9:00am - 5:30pm, Sun 9:30am-2:00pm

### **Calgary Immigrant Women's Association**

200, 138 - 4 Avenue, S.E. Calgary, AB T2G 4Z6 Tel: (403) 263 - 4414

E-mail: reception@ciwa-online.com Website: http://www.ciwa-online.com

Hours of operation:

Mon to Wed 8:30am-4:30pm,

Thurs 8:30am-7:00pm, Fri 8:30am-1:30pm

### **Centre for Newcomers**

125, 920 – 36 Street, N.E. Calgary, AB T2A 6L8 Tel: (403) 569-3325

E-mail: newcomer@centrefornewcomers.ca Website: http://www.centrefornewcomers.ca Hours of operation: Mon to Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm

### **Immigrant Services Calgary**

1200, 910 - 7 Avenue, S.W. Calgary, ABT2P 3N8

Tel: (403) 265-1120

E-mail: info@immigrantservicescalgary.ca

Website: http://www.immigrantservicescalgary.ca Hours of operation: Mon to Wed 8:30am - 4:30pm.

### **Jewish Family Services Calgary**

420, 5920 -1 A Street, S.W. Calgary, AB T2H 0G3 Tel: (403) 287-3510 E-mail: info@jfsc.org

Website: http://www.jfsc.org

Hours of operation:

Mon, Tues, and Thurs 8:30am - 5:00pm, Wed 8:30am - 8:00pm, Fri 8:30 am - 2:00pm

### **EDMONTON**

### **ASSIST Community Services Centre**

9653 - 105A Avenue Edmonton, AB T5H 0M3 Tel: (780) 429-3111

Tel: (780) 429-3111

E-mail: info@assistcsc.org

Website: http://www.assistcsc.org

Hours of operation:

Mon to Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm, Sat 9:30am - 12:30pm

### **Catholic Social Services (CSS)**

10709 - 105 Street Edmonton, AB T5H 2X3 Tel: (780) 424-3545

E-mail: immcss@catholicsocialservices.ab.ca Website: http://www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca SCSS provides services in communities across northeast and central Alberta. Visit their website for specific locations.

### **Changing Together: A Centre for Immigrant** Women

2nd Floor, 10010 - 105 Street Edmonton, AB T5J 1C4

Tel: (780) 421-0175

E-mail: info@changingtogether.com

Website: http://www.changingtogether.com Hours of operation: Mon to Thur 8:30am - 4:30pm,

Fri 8:30am - 3:30pm

### **Edmonton Immigrant Services Association**

201, 10720 - 113 Street Edmonton, AB T5H 3H8 Tel: (780) 474-8445

Website: http://www.eisa-edmonton.org Hours of operation: Mon - Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm

### **Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers**

E-mail: info@emcn.ab.ca

Website: http://www.emcn.ab.ca

Programs and services are offered from three locations in Edmonton. Visit their website for

information and telphone numbers.

### Indo Canadian Women's Association

9342 - 34 Ave

Edmonton, AB T6E 5X8 Tel: (780) 490-0477

E-mail: icwaedmonton@yahoo.ca

Hours of operation: Mon to Fri 8:30am - 5:00pm

### Le Centre d'Accueil et d'établissement

108, 8627 - 91 Street NW Edmonton, AB T6C 3N1 Tel: (780) 669-6004

Email: s.accueil@acfaedmonton.ab.ca

Website: http://www.lecae.ca

### **RED DEER**

### **Catholic Social Services**

202, 5000 Gaetz Avenue Red Deer, ABT4N 6C2 Tel: (403) 346-8818

E-mail: immcss@catholicsocialservices.ab.ca Website: http://www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca

### **Central Alberta Refugee Effort Committee**

5104 - 48 Avenue Red Deer, ABT4N 3T8 Tel: (403) 347-8844

### **LETHBRIDGE**

### **Lethbridge Family Services - Immigrant Services**

703 - 2 Avenue S

Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 0C4

Tel: (403) 320-1589

E-mail: admin@lfsimmigrantservices.ca

Website: www.lethbridge-family-services.com

### **MEDICINE HAT**

### **SAAMIS** Immigration Services Association

659 - 3 Street SE Medicine Hat, AB Tel: (403) 504-1188

E-mail: info@saamisimmigration.ca Website: www.saamisimmigration.ca

### **GRANDE PRAIRIE**

### **Grande Praire Centre for Newcomers**

201, 9924-100 Avenue Grande Prairie, AB T8V 0T9

Tel: (780) 538-4452 E-mail: info@gpcn.ca

Website: http://www.gpcn.ca

### FORT MCMURRAY

### YMCA of Wood Buffalo - Immigrant Settlement Services

201, 10011 Franklin Avenue Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2K7

Tel: (780) 743-2970

Email: immigrantservices@ymcaes.com Website: www.ymca.woodbuffalo.org

### **EMERGENCY SUPPORTS AND RESOURCES**

### **BANFF**

**YWCA of Banff** 

Tel: 1-800-813-4138 (toll free) Crisis support line: (403) 762-3560

**BROOKS** 

**Brooks and District Women's Safe Shelter Society** 

Crisis Support line: (403) 793-2232

**CALGARY** 

**Brenda Stafford Centre** 

Second Stage Housing

Crisis support line: (403) 270-7240

**Awo Taan Healing Lodge** 

Crisis support line: (403) 531-1972

**Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter** 

Crisis support line: (403) 234-SAFE (7233)

**Discovery House** 

Second Stage Housing Tel: (403) 670-0467

CAMROSE

**Brigantia Place** 

Crisis support line: (780) 672-1035

**COLD LAKE** 

**Dr. Margaret Savage Crisis Centre** 

Crisis support line: (780) 594-3353

**EDMONTON** 

Edmonton Women's Shelter Ltd. (W.I.N. House)

Crisis support line: (780) 479-0058

LaSalle Residence

Second Stage Housing Tel: (780) 442-0087 **Lurana Shelter** 

Crisis support line: (780) 424-5875

**WINGS of Providence Society** 

Second Stage Housing

Crisis support line: (780) 426-4985

**ENILDA** 

**Sucker Creek Women's Emergency Shelter** 

Tel: 1-866-523-2929 (toll-free) Crisis support line: (780) 523-4357

**Second Stage Housing** 

Crisis support line: (780) 523-4357

**FAIRVIEW** 

**Crossroads Resource Centre** 

Tel: 1-877-835-2120

Crisis support line: (780) 835-2120

**FORT CHIPEWYAN** 

Paspew House

Crisis support line: (780) 697-3323

**FORT MCMURRAY** 

**Unity House** 

Crisis support line: (780) 743-1190

**GRANDE CACHE** 

**Grande Cache Transition House Society** 

Tel: (780) 827-3776

Crisis Support line: (780) 827-1791

**GRANDE PRAIRIE** 

Grande Prairie Women's Residence Association

(Odyssey House)

Tel: (780) 538-1332

Crisis support line: (780) 532-2672

### **HIGH LEVEL**

### **Safe House**

Tel: 1-888-926-0301 (toll free) Crisis support line: (780) 926-3899

### **HIGH RIVER**

### **Rowan House Emergency Shelter**

Crisis support line: (403) 652-3311

### **HINTON**

### Yellowhead Emergency Shelter for Women Society

Tel: 1-800-661-0937

Crisis support line: (780) 865-5133

### **HOBBEMA**

### **Emineskin Women's Shelter**

Crisis support line: (780) 585-4444

### **LAC LA BICHE**

### **Hope Haven Women's Shelter**

Crisis support line: (780) 623-3100

### Lynne's House

Crisis support line: (780) 623-3100

### **LETHBRIDGE**

### **Native Women's Transition Home Society**

Crisis support line: (403) 329-6506 or (403) 329-6141

### **YMCA Harbour House**

Crisis support line: (403) 320-1881

### **LLOYDMINSTER**

### **Lloydminster Interval Home Society**

Crisis support line: (780) 875-0966

### **Dolmar Manor**

Second Stage Housing

Crisis support line: (780) 875-0966

### **MEDICINE HAT**

### Musasa House

Second Stage Housing

Crisis support line: (403) 529-1091

### **Phoenix Safe House**

Tel: 1-800-661-7949

Crisis support line: (403) 529-1091

### **MORLEY**

### **Eagle's Nest Stoney Family Shelter**

Crisis support line: (403) 881-2000

### **PEACE RIVER**

### **Peace River Regional Women's Shelter**

Tel: 1-877-624-3466 (toll free)

### **PINCHER CREEK**

### **Pincher Creek Women's Emergency Shelter**

Tel: 1-888-354-4868 (toll free) Crisis support line: (403) 627-2114

### **RED DEER**

### **Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter**

Tel: 1-888-346-5643 (toll free)

### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE**

### **Mountain Rose Women's Shelter Association**

Crisis support line: (403) 845-4141

### **SLAVE LAKE**

### **Northen Haven Support Society**

Tel: (780) 849-4418

### SHERWOOD PARK

### A Safe Place - Strathcona Shelter Society

Tel: 1-877-252-7233

Crisis support line: (780) 464-7233

### ST. PAUL

### **Columbus House of Hope**

Tel: 1-800-263-3045 (toll free) Crisis support line: (780) 645-5132

### **STAND OFF**

### Kainai Women's Wellness Lodge

Crisis support line: 1-888-653-1909

### **STRATHMORE**

### **Wheatland Shelter**

Tel: 1-877-934-6634

Crisis support line: (403) 934-6634

♦ Also accomodates abused men with or without

children

### **TABER**

### Safe Haven

Crisis support line: (403) 223-0483

### **WABASCA**

### **Big Stone Cree Nation Women's Emergency Shelter**

Crisis support line: (780) 891-3333

### **WHITECOURT**

### **Wellspring Family Resources and Crisis Centre**

Tel: 1-800-467-4049 (toll free)

Crisis support line: (780) 778-6209

### RESOURCES FOR PERSONS WITH PETS

### **Alberta Society for Prevention of Cruelty to** Animals (SPCA)

10806 124 Street

Edmonton, AB T5M OH3

Tel: (780) 447-3600

Website: http://www.albertaspca.org/SPCAlist.asp \$\foating \text{ For a listing of SPCA/Humane Societies in your } area visit the website.

### **Calgary Humane Society Pet Safekeeping Program**

Non-Emergency - all hours Tel: (403) 723-6025

Emergency: (403) 205-4455

Website: http://www.calgaryhumane.ca/

### **RESOURCES FOR PERSONS WITH** DISABILITIES

### Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities

106, 10423 - 178 Street N.W. Edmonton, Alberta T5S 1R5

Tel: (780) 488-9088

Toll Free: 1-800-387-2514 TDD/TTY: (780) 488-9090 Email: accd@accd.net

Website: http://www.accd.net/

### **Canadian Mental Health Association Alberta Division**

320 Capital Place

9707-110 Street, N.W.

Edmonton, AB T5K 2L9

Tel: (780) 482 - 6576

Website: http://www.cmha.ab.ca/

\$For information and regional office contact

locations visit the website.

### **DisAbled Women's Network Canada (DAWN)**

110 Sainte-Thérèse Street, Suite 505

Montréal, Quebec H2Y 1E6

Toll free anywhere in Canada: 1-866-396-0074

Email: admin@dawncanada.net Website: www.dawncanada.net

### **Protection for Persons in Care**

Tel: 1-888-357-9339

To report abuse in publicly funded care facilities

### QUICK REFERENCE

### **ONLINE SAFETY**

### **Emails**

- Make your email names anonymous, so that you are not easily identified. Only give out your new email address to trusted contacts.
- Strong passwords are critical. Change all your passwords.
- Once you've created a new email account, check to make sure your real name is not displayed. Send yourself an email and check to see if your real name is displayed alongside your email name in the sender field.

### **Instant Messaging (IM) and Social Networking Sites**

- If you use IM or social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter, use your new email to create a new account. When setting up the account, be sure to choose a username that does not identify you. Don't use any photos of yourself or photos that could be uniquely associated with you.
- Set your account to private (friends only) and be careful when adding friends so that your abusive partner does not have access through a friend's login.
- Turn off the location functionality that might show where you are whenever you post. Also shut Bluetooth functions off mobile devices.

### **E-Shopping**

• Close all current e-shopping accounts and open new ones using your new email and secure password. This will help prevent the individual from gaining access to your new delivery details and credit cards.



### SAFETY PACK

Keep your safety pack hidden in a place where you can grab it quickly. Or ask someone, a close friend or shelter, to hold on to your pack.

Items with a \* indicate important items.

All other items are considerations to have on hand.

Safety pack should include:

- ☐ Identification for self and children \*
- Driver's License & Passports \*
- Health Card & Provincial drug plan \*
- Birth Certificate
- Social Insurance Card
- Status Card \*

|    | opies of custody orders / restraining orders/ |   |
|----|---|---|
| Em | ergency Protection Orders (EPO), court orders | s |

- Immigration or work permit papers and visa \*
- ☐ Marriage license or Divorce Decree \*
- ☐ Recent picture of you, kids, and abuser \*
- ☐ Cash, debit card, and/or credit cards
- ☐ Medication, hearing aids, glasses
- ☐ Keys (house, car, work, safety deposit box)
- ☐ Extra set of clothing for you and your kids
- ☐ Address book with important contacts
- ☐ Baby food, formula, diapers
- ☐ Small saleable objects (jewelry)

### **COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

- Family Violence Information Line, phone toll-free in Alberta: 310-1818 Open 24 hours, 7 days per week. All calls are answered by trained staff and kept confidential. Services available in 170 languages.
- Government of Alberta emergency funding, phone toll-free in Alberta: 1-866-644-5135.
- To locate a shelter close to you or if you need someone to talk to, phone toll-free in Alberta: 1-866-331-3933.

### QUICK REFERENCE IF YOU ARE BEING STALKED OR

### **BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE BEING STALKED**

It is important that you seek support to manage the stalking and its impact on your life. Consider the following recommendations:

### Avoid all contact with your stalker

- At the earliest stage, give one clear, firm message to the stalker that their attention is unwanted and you want no further contact from the person.
- If you have children with the stalker, consider filing for custody or seek legal advice.

### **Contact the Police**

 Stalking is a crime. If you are being stalked, contact the police immediately, especially if the stalking persists for more than 2 weeks.

### **Document all incidents**

 Keep a log of every stalking incident with dates, times and detail of incident.

### Increase your Personal Safety by Creating a Safety Plan

 A safety plan allows you to think about things that could happen and what you could do in the event that it does.

### IF I CHOOSE TO STAY WITH MY ABUSIVE PARTNER

### Be aware. Pay attention to changes in mood and behaviour and take action.

- When an argument erupts move to a safe room. Avoid the bathroom, kitchen and garage where there are many potential weapons. Try to be in a room with outside access like windows and doors.
- 2. Teach others, including children, to get out of the room where the abuse is occurring and to call 911 out of view of the abuser.
- 3. Have a safety pack already prepared and stored where it can easily be accessed and the abuser will not find it.

### I DO NOT LIVE WITH MY ABUSIVE PARTNER BUT WANT TO END THE RELATIONSHIP

Ending an abusive relationship may be dangerous. Take extra precautions and consider the following safety strategies:

- Take all threats seriously and contact the police.
- Make it clear that you want the relationship to end.
- Make it clear to the person that you do not want them to call you or see you and that you do not want any of their friends or family to try to contact you.
- Stop any and all contact with the person. If your expartner begins stalking, phoning or following you, document the times, events, and your fear level.
   This evidence is important if a criminal harassment charge is to be laid.
- Get a new unlisted phone number but also keep your old telephone number. Do not give out your new number to the abusive partner or their associates.
- Teach others not to give out any information about you. Find out those who might be associated with the abuser and do not give them any information.
- Create a new email address but keep the one known to the abuser to capture harassing email messages. Do not reply back. Save these messages and take them to the police.
- If you have children with the partner, get legal advice and other support to help you make decisions about the safety of your children.

### **CREATING A SAFETY PLAN**

- Identify who you can tell and discuss how they can help (code words).
- Rehearse escape plan with children.
- Open separate bank accounts, if possible.
- Hide money and spare change.
- Find places in the neighbourhood, open 24 hours 7 days a week.
- Take the children with you.
- Get a police escort if you fear violence and if you need to return to your home.

Family Violence Info Line
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Toll Free anywhere in Alberta
310-1818
www.familyviolence.alberta.ca



