

Escaping Domestic Violence

Safety during an explosive incident

Preparing to Leave

- Open a savings account and/or credit card in your own name.
- Prepare a bug-out bag with key items from checklist below.
- Identify a trusted neighbor and explain your situation and plan.
- Decide who at work you will inform. Include security. Provide a picture of your abuser if possible.
- Devise a code word to use with your children, family, friends and neighbors.
- Identify escape routes and practice using them.
- Get and use a PO Box for personal and official mail
- Put photos and heirlooms in storage or at a friends house
- Clean your browser history, change your passwords
- Place one extra set of keys in a safety box under the bumper and one with a neighbor
- Keep the shelter or hotline phone numbers close at hand.
- If an argument seems unavoidable, position yourself where you can easily get away.
- Stay away from bathroom, kitchen or anywhere else weapons might be available.

REMEMBER: Leaving your abuser is the most dangerous time!

Safety with an Order of Protection (OOP)

- Keep your OOP with you at all times. Give a copy to a trusted friend or neighbor.
- Call the police if your partner breaks the protective order.
- Inform family, friends, neighbors and your physician that you have an OOP in effect.
- Screen your phone calls using caller ID or use an answering machine.
- If you have to communicate with your partner, determine the safest way to do so.
- Attend a women's or victim's support group for at least two weeks.

What to take when you leave:

IDENTIFICATION

- Driver's License
- Birth Certificates
- Social Security Cards
- AFDC/Food Stamp Paperwork

LEGAL PAPERS

- Order of Protection
- Lease, Rental Agreement or Deed
- Car registration and Insurance
- Medical Records
- School Records
- Work Permits/Green Card/Visa
- Passport
- Divorce Paperwork
- Custody Paperwork

FINANCIAL

- Money and/or Credit Cards
- Checkbooks

OTHER

- House and Car Keys
- Medications
- Small Saleable Objects
- Jewelry
- Address Book
- Pictures of You, kids and Abuser
- Children's Small Toys
- Toiletries/Diapers
- Change of Clothes
- Cell phone and charger
- Summerville Victim Advocate - 821-3698
- My Sister's House - 744-3242
- People Against Rape (PAR) - 745-0144