

Remember that only the batterer can insure safety through his or her actions. However, safety plans are a useful tool to empower survivors and to take steps to address the presenting dangers.

If survivor is staying:

- What has worked in the past?
- What are the survivor's support network, temporary escapes and resources?
- Is it possible to pack an emergency bag and hide it? Try to include important papers such as birth certificates, medical records, school records, etc.
- Where are safe hiding places in the home? Stay away from kitchens and bathrooms.
- Determine or create a safe room that can be locked from the inside. It should have an escape option, such as a door or window. This is a good place to hide an emergency 911 phone.
- Plan an escape route and teach it to the children.
- Ask neighbors to call the police if they see a signal from the survivor such as a shade pulled, a specific light turned on, etc.
- Teach children not to get in between the batterer and survivor and how to get to safety by leaving the home for a safe house or calling the police.
- Consider whether a PPO might still be a useful piece of the safety plan.

See the lethality handout for more information...

Assess lethality of abuse:

- What does the survivor believe?
- Have weapons been used or threatened? Are they accessible to batterer?
- Are there prior acts of separation?

For a safety planning brochure, go to:

<http://www.abanet.org/tips/publicservice/DVENG.pdf>

## If survivor is leaving:

- Discuss when, where, how, what to bring, and who will the survivor tell beforehand.
- What will the survivor tell the children?
- Can the survivor's employer help?
- Ask neighbors to call the police if they see the abuser.
- Put locks on doors and windows.
- Work with children's daycare or school, if possible.
- Vary schedule and regular travel routes.
- Change bank accounts, passwords, and review cyber-presence.

## Personal Protection Orders:

- PPOs are person-to-person, and cannot be filed against a parent by a minor.
- Survivors can file at any county courthouse in Michigan. The process can take a few hours, or days, depending on the location.
- There is no assurance it will be granted
- If it is granted, it must be properly served. This usually costs about \$35.
- There are no fees to file for a PPO and you do not have to have a police report.
- PPOs are public record, and can be read by anyone at any time.
- Turning Point can help!

Turning Point's crisis line can help! Call us with the survivor at 586.463.6990 or give the survivor our number so she or he can call on her or his own. We can talk to kids too!

For a safety planning brochure, go to:

<http://www.abanet.org/tips/publicservice/DVENG.pdf>