

WHAT YOU NEED
to take with you

IDENTIFICATION

- Driver's license
- Birth certificate
- Children's birth certificates
- Social Security cards

FINANCIAL

- Money and/or credit cards (in your name)
- Checking and/or savings account books

LEGAL PAPERS

- Protective Order
- Lease, rental agreement, house deed
- Car registration and insurance papers
- Health and life insurance papers
- Medical records for you and your children
- School records
- Work permits/Green Card
- Passport/Visa
- Divorce and custody papers
- Marriage license

OTHER

- Medications
- House and car keys
- Valuable jewelry
- Address book
- Pictures and sentimental items
- Change of clothes for you and your children

WHAT IS family violence?

Family violence is an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault. Family violence does not include defensive measures to protect oneself.



GREG ABBOTT
Attorney General
of Texas

CRIME VICTIM services division

The Crime Victim Services Division consists of four sections: the Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Services Program, the Grant and Contract Management Section, the Statewide Automated Victim Notification Program and the Crime Victims' Compensation Program.

CRIME VICTIMS' compensation

If you are a victim of family violence, you may be eligible for reimbursement of certain out-of-pocket expenses related to the crime. Please check our Web site or call for information and an application form.

Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12198
Austin, Texas 78711-2198

(800) 983-9933 Statewide
(512) 936-1200 in Austin
(512) 936-1800 Fax
www.oag.state.tx.us

Texas Council on Family Violence
National Domestic Violence Hotline
(800) 799-SAFE (7233)

Women's Advocacy Project
Family Violence Hotline
(800) 374-HOPE (4673)

FAMILY VIOLENCE



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

A PERSONAL SAFETY PLAN

a personal
safety plan



DURING an explosive incident...

- If there is an argument, try to be in a place that has an exit. Avoid the bathroom, kitchen or any room that may contain weapons.
- Use your instincts and judgment. In a dangerous situation, appease the abuser if possible to keep him or her calm.
- Practice getting out of your home safely. Identify which doors, windows, elevator or stairwell to use.
- Pack a bag and have it ready at a friend's or relative's house.
- Identify one or more neighbors whom you can tell about the violence, and ask them to call the police if they hear a disturbance coming from your home.

- Devise a code word to use with your children, family, friends and neighbors when you need the police.
- Decide and plan where you will go if you ever have to leave home.

Remember: You Do Not Deserve to be Hit or Threatened

WHEN YOU ARE preparing to leave

- Open a checking account or savings account in your own name.
- Leave money, an extra set of keys, copies of important documents, and extra clothes and medicines in a safe place or with someone you trust.
- Get your own post office box.
- Find a safe place where you and your children can go or a person who can lend you money.
- Always keep the shelter phone number and some change or a calling card with you for emergency phone calls.
- If you have pets, make arrangements for them to be cared for in a safe place.

Remember: Leaving Your Batterer is the Time to be Most Cautious



GET A protective order

- If you or your children have been threatened or assaulted, you can request a Protective Order from your local district or county attorney.
- Always keep your Protective Order with you.
- Call the police if your abuser violates the Protective Order.
- Inform family members, friends, schools and neighbors that you have a Protective Order in effect.
- Think of alternative ways to keep safe if the police do not respond immediately.

FEELING SAFE in your own home

- If you stay in your home, lock your windows and change the locks on your doors.
- Develop a safety plan with your children for when you are not with them.
- Inform your child's school, day-care, etc., about who has permission to pick up your child.
- Inform your neighbors and the landlord that your partner no longer lives with you and that they should call the police if they see him/her near your home.
- Never call the abuser from your home; he/she may find out where you live. Never tell the abuser where you live.
- Request an unlisted/unpublished number from the telephone company.

FEELING SAFE on the job and in public places

- Decide whom you will inform at work of your situation. Tell the building security officers, and if possible, provide them with a picture of your batterer.
- When at work, if possible, have someone screen your telephone calls.
- Have someone escort you to and from your car, bus or train.
- Use a variety of routes to come and go from home.

IMPORTANT phone numbers

Name and phone number of Shelter:

Name and phone number of Hospital:

Law Enforcement Liaison phone number:

District Attorney Victim Assistance Coordinator:

