

SAFETY IS YOUR CONCERN!

If an argument seems unavoidable, move to a room or area with easy access to an exit----- NOT a bathroom, kitchen or anywhere near weapons. Try to position yourself between the danger and a door.

- Identify the quickest exit from each room and practice your exit route.
- Have a bag packed and ready for a quick escape if necessary. Keep the bag in an undisclosed but accessible location.
- Tell friends and trusted neighbors about the violence and ask that they call police if they see or hear a disturbance.
- Devise a code word or simple phrase to use with your children, family and friends when you need them to call the police for you.
- Think of ways you can safely get out of the house such as taking out the trash, walking the dog or going to the store.
- Decide where you will go if you have to leave the house. Keep the Women's Shelter in mind. They can be contacted by calling (574) 294-1811.
- Use your instincts and trust your judgment. Consider giving the abuser what they want to diffuse a dangerous situation until you can get away safely.
- Practice safety in using the internet and e-mail. Internet use can be tracked. Use InPrivate browsing on your computer or a safer computer. Consider changing e-mail and banking passwords often.
- You have a right to protect yourself when you are in danger.

REMEMBER, YOU DO NOT DESERVE TO BE BATTERED OR THREATENED.

CHECKLIST

You may want to take these items with you if you have to leave.

- Passports, birth certificates, immigration papers, welfare ID, work permits for all members of the family, social security cards
- School and vaccination records
- Driver's license and registration
- Medical records, prescriptions for all family members, insurance cards
- Court papers such as divorce papers, custody documents, protection orders, marriage certificate
- Lease agreement, house deed, mortgage papers
- Bank books
- Address book
- Pictures of spouse and children for identification purposes
- Credit cards, bank cards, checkbook, anything you use on a regular basis
- Money
- Medications
- Clothes, jewelry
- Pets, if possible (If you cannot take them with you, try making other arrangements for your pets.)
- House, office, car keys
- Items of sentimental value
- Special toys, blankets or items of comfort for children
- Cell phones, computers and personal digital devices containing personal information

Victim Rights in Indiana

As a crime victim, you are entitled to certain rights under IC 35-40. If you have questions about these rights, please contact the Victim Assistance Program at (574) 523-2237.