



INFORMATION FOR VICTIM/WITNESS OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Your partner/former partner has been charged with a criminal offence or some form of violence against you. As the court process can be confusing and frightening, we are here to support you through this process. You are invited to attend at the Victim/Witness Assistance Program office at 123 March Street, Suite 204 (Soo Centre), on the morning following your partner's arrest. If it occurs on a weekend, go on a Monday (or Tuesday if it is after a long weekend). There you will meet the Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) worker who is available to offer support, guidance and information and will assist you in making your views known to the office of the Crown Attorney.

It is in your best interest to attend and obtain accurate information regarding the Domestic Violence Court Process that is designed to help protect you and your children.

Please call if we can assist you or if you have any questions.

Victim Witness Assistance Program

(705) 946-6567

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Crown Attorney's Office

(705) 945-8001

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE NUMBERS

Emergency Phone Numbers	
Police/Fire/Ambulance	911
Ontario Provincial Police	1-888-310-1122
Anishinabek Police Service (Garden River)	705-946-4196
Emergency Assault Clinics	
Sault Area Hospitals Sexual Assault Clinic/Partner Assault Clinic	705-759-5143
Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse Provincial Crisis & Support Line	1-866-887-0015
Shelters	
Women in Crisis Shelter/24 hour Crisis Line	705-759-1230
Nimkii-Naabkawagan Shelter/Rankin	705-941-9054
Verdi Shelter	705-450-0011
Pauline's Place Youth & Women's Shelter (16-18 years old, women only)	705-759-4663
Elliot Lake Maple Gate House for Women	1-800-461-4623
Wawa Chadwic Home	1-800-461-2242
Blind River – Mississauga Shelter	1-800-461-2232
Counselling Services	
Sexual Assault Help Line	1-800-205-7100
Women in Crisis	705-759-1230/1-877-759-1230
Metis Family Resource Centre	705-256-6146
Nogdawindamin Family and Community	705-946-3700
Algoma Family Services	705-945-5050
Centre Victoria pour Femmes	705-253-0049
Indian Friendship Centre	705-256-5634
Crisis Lines	
Sault Area Hospital Crisis Intervention	705-759-3398
Assaulted Women's Helpline	
Ligne D'ecoute et de Soutien/24 heure	

SAFETY CHECKLIST

The purpose of this checklist is to help you plan to leave an abusive situation quickly and safely.

SAFETY DURING A CRISIS SITUATION

- Have an emergency plan in place.
- Call 911 and yell loudly to alert neighbours.
- Arrange for a friend or neighbour to call the police if they hear a disturbance coming from your home.
- Have a code word to use with your children, family, friends or neighbours when you need the police.
- Use your right to protect yourself until you are out of danger.

SAFETY WHEN PLANNING TO LEAVE

- Build your independence by getting your own bank account and/or credit card.
- Tell no one about the account AND ensure the bank will not send you mailings or release account information to anyone but you. This is easily done and common.
- Leave a packed bag with someone you trust in case you have to leave quickly. Don't forget money, an extra set of keys, copies of important documents, extra medication, clothes, toiletries and essential supplies for your children.
- Take a photocopy of all important documents (restraining order, birth certificates, visas or passports, divorce, custody orders, social insurance card, health care cards, driver's license, bank book, lease, deed or rental agreement). Keep important documents in a safe place or easy access in a crisis.
- Take something meaningful for your children – a favourite stuffed animal, toy or book.
- Arrange for a safe place to go before you decide to leave.
- Keep shelter and emergency numbers close at hand.
- Have change or a calling card for emergency calls.
- Contact Children Aid's Society for help if necessary – (705) 949-0162

REVIEW YOUR SAFETY PLAN OFTEN TO ENSURE A QUICK AND SAFE DEPARTURE ONCE YOU DECIDE THAT IT'S TIME TO LEAVE!

Safety when you live on your own:

- Change locks on your doors and secure your windows.
- Carry a cell phone with 911 capabilities and pre-programmed numbers for assistance.
- Make sure your children have a safety plan for when you are not with them.
- Inform school or daycare about who had permission to pick up your children.
- Inform your neighbours, friends and landlord that your partner no longer lives with you.

Safety with a Court Order

- Keep it with you at all times and give a copy to a family member, trusted friend or neighbour.
- Call the police if your abuser violates the order.
- Determine other ways to stay safe if the police do not respond immediately.
- Inform family, friends, neighbours and your physician that you have a restraining order.
- Have friends, neighbours or landlord contact the police if they see your abuser near your home. They should provide the police with a description or picture of your abuser and the make, model and licence number of their car.

Safety on the Job and While in Public

- Decide who at work should know about your situation (including security) and supply them with a photograph of your abuser if necessary.
- Screen your telephone calls.
- Make sure you can leave work safely.
- If you drive, park in a safe place, ask someone to escort you to your vehicle.
- Use a variety of routes home if possible/change your routines often.