

CHILDREN'S SAFETY PLANNING

Children need a safe environment to live in. When their home life is a battle ground for the adults who live there it can be traumatic and possibly dangerous. As a non-violent caregiver, you need to develop a safety and escape plan with your children. This plan provides safeguards for your children and a way for them to alert emergency help for you. The children need to really understand that the violence is not their fault and it is not their job to try and protect you from your abusive partner.

I will provide the following for my children:

I will set up a safe room in our home for them to go if my partner starts to be abusive. This room will be, (if possible), on the ground floor so the children can leave through a window if necessary.

The safe room will have a lock on the door and a cell phone or cordless phone that only they and I know about, with the police emergency number on speed dial. It is important that they do not call for help in front of the abuser.

I will teach the children to remember where the phone is and how to dial the emergency number on speed dial. We will practice saying someone is hurting my Mommy/Daddy/Aunt/Step mom Step dad/etc, in case one of the children needs to call the police.

I will teach them not to hang up because the police will call back and that could make the situation more dangerous.

I will teach the children their full names, our home phone number and address.

The Children and I will have a code word to alert them to go to the safe room.

We will have another code word to alert them to immediately leave the house and run to a prearranged emergency friend, neighbour, store or Block Parent House to have an adult call police. (The children need to be clear on where they are to go and the fastest way to get there).

The children will contact a pre-arranged emergency caregiver such as a friend, grandparents, church pastor or other adult as soon as the adult has called the police.

The children will go with the emergency caregiver and I will meet them there as soon as possible.

I will teach the children about the Block Parent Program and teach them to recognize the Block Parent Sign so they will know that is a safe place to go and get adult help.

It is important that if you leave that you take your children with you. Historically, when matters go to court, the parent who has the children is more likely to keep them.