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# A COLLEGE STUDENT'S GUIDE TO SAFETY PLANNING

## WHY DO I NEED A SAFETY PLAN?

Everyone deserves a relationship that is healthy, safe and supportive. If you are in a relationship that is hurting you, it is important for you to know that *the abuse is not your fault*. It is also important for you to start thinking of ways to keep yourself safe from the abuse, whether you decide to end the relationship or not. While you can't control your partner's abusive behavior, you *can* take action to keep yourself as safe as possible.

## WHAT IS A SAFETY PLAN?

A safety plan is a practical guide that helps lower your risk of being hurt by your abuser. It includes information *specific to you and your life* that will help keep you safe. A good safety plan helps you think through lifestyle changes that will help keep you as safe as possible on campus, in the dorms and other places that you go on a daily basis.

## HOW DO I MAKE A SAFETY PLAN?

Take some time for yourself to go through each section of this safety plan. You can complete the workbook on your own, or you can work through it with someone else that you trust.

## Keep in Mind:

- In order for this safety plan to work for you, you'll need to fill in personalized answers, so you can use the information when you most need it.
- Once you complete your safety plan, be sure to keep it in an accessible but secure location. You might also consider giving a copy of your safety plan to someone that you trust.
- Getting support from someone who has experience working with college students in abusive relationships can be very useful.

# MY SAFETY PLAN - PAGE 1

## Staying Safe on Campus:

The safest way for me to get to class is: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

These are places on campus where I often run into my abuser:

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_. I will try and avoid those  
places as much as possible or try to go when s/he won't be there.

There may be places on campus where it is impossible to avoid my  
abuser. If I need to go to one of those places I can make sure a  
friend can go with me. I will ask \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and/or \_\_\_\_\_.

If I feel threatened or unsafe when I am on campus, I can go to  
these public areas where I feel safe (dining hall, quad, etc.):  
\_\_\_\_\_ and/or  
\_\_\_\_\_.

I could talk to the following people  
if I need to rearrange my schedule  
or transfer dorms in order to avoid  
my abuser; or if I need help  
staying safe on campus:

- Campus Police  
 Resident Advisor  
 Professors: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Dorm Security  
 Dean of Students  
 Sexual Assault Center  
 Women's Center  
 LGBTQ Center  
 Counselor  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

If I live with or near my  
abuser, I will have a bag  
ready with these important  
items in case I need to leave  
quickly (check all that ap-  
ply):

- Cell phone & charger  
 Spare money  
 Keys  
 Driver's license or  
other form of ID  
 Copy of Restraining  
Order  
 Birth certificate,  
social security card,  
immigration papers  
and other important  
documents  
 Change of clothes  
 Medications  
 Special photos or  
other valuable items  
 If I have children—  
anything they may  
need (important  
papers, formula,  
diapers)

## Staying Safe in the Dorms

I can tell these people (hall mates, roommates or RA's) about what is  
going on in my relationship: \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

There will be times when my roommate is gone. If I feel unsafe during  
those times, I can have people stay with me. I will ask:

\_\_\_\_\_.

The safest way for me to leave the dorms in an emergency is:

\_\_\_\_\_.

If I have to leave the dorms in an emergency, I should try to go to a  
place that is public, safe and unknown by my abuser. I could go here:

\_\_\_\_\_ and/or here: \_\_\_\_\_.

I will use a code word so I can alert my family, friends, roommates and/  
or hall mates to call for help without my abuser knowing about it. My  
code word is: \_\_\_\_\_.

# MY SAFETY PLAN - PAGE 2

## Staying Safe Emotionally:

My abuser often makes me feel bad by saying this:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

When he/she does this, I will think of these reasons why I know my abuser is wrong:

\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

I will do things I enjoy, like:

\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_.

I will join clubs or organizations that interest me, like:

\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

**If I feel confused, depressed or scared, I can call the following friends or family members:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**During an emergency, I can call the following friends, family members or residential life staff at any time of day or night:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Getting Help in Your Community:

**For emergencies: 911**

**National Dating Abuse Helpline: 1-866-331-9474**

Campus police station: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Health Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Women's or LGBTQ Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Free Legal Assistance: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

# MY SAFETY PLAN - PAGE 3

These are things I can do to help keep myself safe everyday:

- I will carry my cell phone and important telephone numbers with me at all times.
- I will keep in touch with someone I trust about where I am or what I am doing.
- I will stay out of isolated places and try to never walk around alone.
- If possible, I will alert dorm or campus security about what is happening in my relationship so that my abuser is not allowed in my building.
- I will avoid places where my abuser or his/her friends and family are likely to be.
- I will keep the doors and windows locked where I live, especially if I am alone.
- I will avoid speaking to my abuser. If it is unavoidable, I will make sure there are people around in case the situation becomes dangerous.
- I will call 911 if I feel my safety is at risk.
- I can look into getting a protective order so that I'll have legal support in keeping my abuser away.
- I can see if there are any self-defense classes available at my college or university.
- I will remember that the abuse is not my fault and that I deserve a safe and healthy relationship.

These are things I can do to help keep myself safe in my social life:

- I will ask my friends to keep their cell phones with them while they are with me in case we get separated and I need help.
- If possible, I will go to different malls, bars, banks, parties, grocery stores, movie theaters, dining halls, etc. than the ones my abuser goes to or knows about.
- I will avoid going out alone, especially at night.
- No matter where I go, I will be aware of how to leave safely in case of an emergency.
- I will leave if I feel uncomfortable in a situation, no matter what my friends are doing.
- If I plan on drinking, I will be sure to have a sober driver who is *not* my abuser.
- I will spend time with people who make me feel safe, supported and good about myself.

These are things I can do to stay safe online and with my cell phone:

- I will not say or do anything online that I wouldn't in person.
- I will set all my online profiles to be as private as they can be.
- I will save and keep track of any abusive, threatening or harassing comments, posts, or texts.
- I will never give my password to anyone.
- If the abuse and harassment does not stop, I will change my usernames, email addresses, and/or cell phone number.
- I will not answer calls from unknown, blocked or private numbers.
- I can see if my phone company can block my abuser's phone number from calling my phone.
- I will not communicate with my abuser using any type of technology if unnecessary, since any form of communication can be recorded and possibly used against me in the future.