

Creating a Personalized Safety Plan



A safety plan is personalized, practical plan for where to go, what to do, and who to call if you are being hurt or abused by someone close to you. It's important to have a safety plan because when we're in crisis our brains have trouble processing. Having details written down ahead of times makes it easier to remember what to do in an emergency.

Remember - This plan is for you! Take the parts that work for your life, and leave the rest. Share this plan with one or two trusted people and keep it in a private place.

Abuse is not your fault. You deserve safety, respect, and support in your relationships.

STEP ONE - Assessment



Check the behaviors or actions that this person has taken to harm, scare, or control you:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Control money | <input type="checkbox"/> Cheat on you | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner threatens suicide if you leave |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keep you from working | <input type="checkbox"/> Call you names or make you feel small | <input type="checkbox"/> Force you to do something sexually that you don't want to do |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keep you from getting work done | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep you from leaving the room or the house | <input type="checkbox"/> Treat you like a servant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Force you to work | <input type="checkbox"/> Expose you to a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STD/STI) | <input type="checkbox"/> Force you to have an abortion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stop you from calling for help | <input type="checkbox"/> Hit, slap, or punch you | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep you from sleeping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pull your hair | <input type="checkbox"/> Get you pregnant on purpose without your consent | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep you from going to school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choke or put their hands around your neck | <input type="checkbox"/> Tell you what to do, where you can go, what you can wear | <input type="checkbox"/> Call or text you constantly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Threaten you with a weapon | | <input type="checkbox"/> Accuse you of cheating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Isolate you from family and friends | | |

Many of these tactics can be used in a day, a month, or a lifetime. Even if you have experienced none of these tactics specifically, you may still be experiencing abuse if you are in fear for your health, safety, or freedom.

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STEP TWO - Warning Signs



What are some signs or situations that (usually or often) hint that this person might be about to harm, scare, or control you?

Examples:

- My partner gets really loud and physically threatening when drunk. When I know this person is going to the bar for the night, I send the kids to my sister's house so they don't wake up and get scared when this person comes home.
- When this person starts muttering cuss words under their breath, I know they're going to start to yell or hit soon. I try to leave the house for a walk, or stay in another room with the door closed.

Warning signs for my situation:

- 1 _____

- 2 _____

- 3 _____

STEP THREE - EMERGENCY CONTACTS



It's important to know who to call for help in an emergency. Write essential phone numbers in this section, you so don't have to try and find them and remember them.

24/7 Hotlines

- 911
- The Arkansas Crisis Line: 988
- Arkansas 211 Resource Database: 211
- Arkansas Coalition Against Sexual Assault: (800)656-4673
- The River Valley Shelter: (479)968-3110

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STEP THREE - EMERGENCY CONTACTS



If I feel confused, depressed, or scared I can call one of these people and know they will have my back:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

In an emergency, I can call these people or organizations to help me, pick me up, or increase my safety:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

If an emergency, for safe places, that I can go to are:

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

STEP FOUR: Go-Bag



When I need to leave (for a night, a few days, or for good) I can pack a "Go-Bag" full of the items I'll need. Circle or highlight the items that apply to your situation:

For Me:

- Medications
- Vital documents
- Change of clothes
- Cash or credit card
- Burner Cell Phone
- Keys

For kids:

- Medications
- Vital documents
- Comfort items
- Formula
- Diapers
- Change of clothes

For pets:

- Medications
- License and vet paperwork
- Extra food

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STEP FIVE - Safety Tips



Below are some tips that may help you stay safe in, or leaving, an abusive relationship. Some of these might not be useful for your situation. You are free to choose what works for you, and ignore the rest!

In my home:

- I can ask my landlord to change the locks,
- I can install security system or more lights outside

In my neighborhood:

- I can tell my neighbor to call 911 (or another #: _____) if they see my abuser or hear something happening at my house
- I can tell my kids' daycare/school who is allowed to pick them up and/or ask them to call me if my abuser shows up

At work:

- I can tell this person: _____ to call 911/security if they see my abuser nearby
- I can ask coworkers not to tell any customers or callers what my schedule is
- I can ask my boss to switch my hours or location so my abuser can no longer harass me at work

I can try to avoid place where I know my abuser might be. such as:

- Their workplace: _____
- Their gym: _____
- Their friends' homes or neighborhood: _____

I can change my route to and from work by:

Example: have someone drive me, taking the 64 instead of the I-40, etc.

With my kids:

- I could teach my kids when and how to call 911 or another safe adult
- I could create and emotional safety plan with my kids (see page 5)

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STEP SIX: Emotional Safety



Living in an abusive relationship is hard on your emotional health, too. What techniques help me feel grounded and safe when scared or stressed?

Check those that apply and write in your own.

- Deep breathing
- Mindfulness
- Going for a walk
- Listening to music
- Rubbing my hands together
- Smelling a candle
- Hugging my kid
- Cuddling an animal
- Stretching my body

What can I tell myself when I'm feeling down on myself?

Circle those that apply and write in your own.

- Making life changes is difficult.
It won't always feel easy, but I
can do this.
- My home should be a haven of
peace, warmth, and safety.
- I'm worth of love just as I am.
