

# SAFETY PLAN CHECKLIST FOR COURT APPEARANCES



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These suggestions are a guide for court personnel, advocates and law enforcement considering safety planning for victims and witnesses during and at court appearances. The checklist encompasses four areas of concern: Environment, Lethality, Court Capacity for Victim Safety and Alternative Strategies.

## Environment

Entrance/Exit to the Court environment

Parking Areas and Sidewalks

Victim Waiting Area

Furniture Placement

Security/law enforcement personnel

Bailiff

Advocates

## Lethality

Checklist/Evaluation (standard from this workshop or websites of victim assistance groups)

History of Assault (from advocate, does not need to be a re-interview of the victim)

Victim Concerns (from the advocate's discussions with the victim about the court appearance)

## Court Capacity for Safety

Staffing Patterns

Entrance/Exits

Safe Waiting Areas

Waiting Area and Personnel for Supervising Children

## Alternative Strategies

Closed Circuit Television Testimony

Escort to and from the courtroom

Placing staff between the offender and the victim/witness so line of sight is disrupted