

The Art of Victim-Centered Safety Planning



From the victim's point of view...

- Respect the victim's decision-making process
- Assess Lethality and Risk
- Ask questions to elicit what she knows about staying safe from the offender
- Assess her resources and capacity for safety
- Inform her about community resources



It must be HER plan in order to work...

- Inform her planning effort with ideas, resources and strategies
- Assess dynamics of the offender
- Review what she needs to take with her
- Caution her about who can be trusted



If there are children...

- Include children in the safety planning process
- Make it age appropriate
- Use drawings with younger children
- Get children to describe what happens when their parents fight
- Involve the mother to reinforce safe strategies
- Help the children understand the plan and its purpose



Safety Planning for Court Appearances

- Coordinate activity with the Victim Witness Coordinator
- Review safety challenges of an appearance in court
- Plan entrance/exit to court and where she will wait
- Share your contact information with the victim
- Provide a tour of the courthouse
- Review the victim's law enforcement report prior to testimony
- Offer guidelines for appropriate courtroom etiquette



Increasing Entry Points for Victim Safety

- The Advocate is the leader and center of the community's safety net
- Identify departments/organizations that may expand the number of entry points
- How will community partners help?
- What training will they need?
- Who can provide that training?



What tools will you need?

- Safety Planning and Victim Response protocol
- Ways to incorporate culture into the response
- Strategies to integrate safety planning into daily operations
- Victim-centered interview training



Thank you for your time and attention.

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