



## **Safety Plans for Domestic Violence Victims & Survivors Safety When Leaving**

**Have a safe place to stay.** Make sure it is a place that can protect you and your children or grandchildren.

**Call a domestic violence victim service program.** Find out which services and shelters are available as options if you need them. Keep their address and phone number close at hand at all times.

**Find someone you trust.** Leave money, extra keys, copies of important documents and clothing with them in advance, so you can leave quickly, if necessary.

**Open a savings account.** Put it in your name only, to increase your independence. Consider direct deposit from your paycheck or benefit check.

**Gather Important Documents.** Identification cards, children's immunization records, marriage license, divorce decrees, birth certificates, school records, medical records, etc...

**Concerns about immigration status.** You may qualify under a law called the Violence Against Women Act. Talk to an immigration expert (not Immigration and Customs Enforcement) or your local domestic violence victim services program for more information.

**Review your safety plan.** Study and check your plans as often as possible in order to know the safest way to leave the abuser.

### **LEAVING CAN BE THE MOST DANGEROUS TIME!**

*These suggestions do not apply to every survivor in every situation. These are to be used as a guideline. Please safety plan around your own individual needs and circumstances.*