

**STRATEGIES AN ADULT SURVIVOR MIGHT USE TO PROMOTE THE SAFETY OF HIS OR
HER CHILDREN¹**

(*as determined by age and developmental stage of child)

- TRO or PO
- DV or homeless shelter
- Cell Phones
- Teach children code words
- Identify safe hiding places
- Call 911
- Remove child from abusive environment; Bring child to alternate, safe, location (ie: friend, relative, different room within home)
- Notify school officials, teachers, etc. of batterer's potential violence; safety plan; emergency contact, TRO /PO; heighten awareness to and possible change in child's behavior
- Sleep in same room with children
- Get abuser drunk
- Identify emergency contact to if unsafe for child to return home
- Talk to children about how to respond to violence, ie: stay away from abusive/violent environment; respond to code word; go to identified neighbor's house, hiding place etc.
- Move out of home with children
- Move out of home without children
- Post bail for offender
- Sleep in car/street (extreme example of children in "trunk" incident)
- Give children to abuser, don't pursue custody
- Identify person to assist with visitation to reduce potential for violence during transfer of children
- Keep children out of school/change schools

1 Good practice with cases involving domestic violence and children requires identifying survivors' strategies for promoting the safety and well-being of their children that go beyond calling the police, getting a court order or leaving the batterer. It important to remember that when these strategies fail to protect the children that it is the batterer who is the source of the original risk. In many instances the batterer sabotages or undermines the survivor's efforts to promote the safety and well-being of the children. Social workers and others who wish to develop successful partnerships with survivors should approach them from the perspective that have been actively engaged in attempting to safeguard their children and promote their well-being, even if those attempts are not always obvious or completely successful. The acknowledgment of efforts similar to the ones listed above can be very validating for the survivor and offer a useful starting point for the development of case plan.

- Teach children to “lie” in order to placate batterer
- Do child’s homework, chores etc.
- Consult with child counselor./bring child to counselor
- Pack emergency bag with child’s records, special toy, change of clothing etc.
- Gain custody/consult legal assistance
- Get false documentation
- Leave country
- Bring children to work
- Go back to abuser
- Invite abuser to home despite TRO/PO

**STRATEGIES AN ADULT SURVIVOR MIGHT USE TO PROMOTE THE WELL BEING OF HIS
OR HER CHILDREN**
 (*as determined by age and developmental stage of child)

- Make sure they attend school
- Normalize as much as possible by providing a safe structure
- Meeting basic needs (feeding, bathing, spending quality time)
- Keeping up to date medically
- Maintaining a routine to avoid exposure to possible violence
- Engaging children with outside activities and relationships (formal and informal)
- Helping children with their homework
- Attending school functions such as parent-teacher conferences, fairs, etc.
- Following family traditions (holidays, religious practices, and other)
- Providing children with age-appropriate tools to understand and cope with the violence
- Being able to “hide” it; in order to protect the children. (physically removing children from violence)
- Minimizing/ recanting to keep family structure for the children
- Adapting/ changing safety plan continuously when batterer changes tactics.