



# **BEST PRACTICE APPROACHES**

## **CHILD PROTECTION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

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## **Best Practice Approaches for Child Protection Intervention and Violence Against Women**

### **Working Group:**

Leslie Anderson, Policy Analyst  
Child and Family Development Division  
Ministry of Children and Family Development  
P.O. Box 9766 Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9S5  
Tel. 250-387-2908  
Fax 250-356-2995  
Email: Leslie.Anderson@gems4.gov.bc.ca

Penny Bain, Executive Director  
BC Institute Against Family Violence  
#551-409 Granville Street  
Vancouver, BC V6C 1T2  
Tel: 604-669-7055  
Fax: 604-669-7054  
Email: pbain@bcifv.org

Dr. Sue Comay, Medical Co-director  
Sexual Assault Service  
BC Women's Hospital  
1985 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, BC V6J 1M7  
Tel: 604-733-352  
Fax: 604-731-9479  
Email: susan\_comay@vrhb.bc.ca

Jill Cory, Co-ordinator  
Woman Abuse Response Program  
BC Woman's Hospital  
E408-4500 Oak Street  
Vancouver, BC V6H 3N1  
Tel: 604-875-3717  
Fax: 604-875-2410  
Email: jcory@cw.bc.ca

Erin Dale, Program/Policy Analyst  
Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, and Women's Services  
Women's Equality and Social Programs Division  
PO Box 9899 Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V9W 9T9  
Tel: 250-953-3441  
Fax: 250-356-0542  
Email: Erin.Dale@gems7.gov.bc.ca

Jan Finch, Program Director  
Specialized Women's Health  
BC Women's Hospital  
4500 Oak Street  
Vancouver, BC V6H 3N1  
Tel: 604-875-2727  
Fax: 604-875-2041  
Email: jfinch@cw.bc.ca

Sheryl Jackson, former Program/Policy Analyst  
Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, and Women's Services  
Women's Equality and Social Programs Division  
Victoria, BC

Tracy Porteous, Executive Director  
BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs  
728-602 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1P2  
Tel: 604-633-2506  
Fax: 604-633-2507  
Email: porteous@endingviolence.org

Shahnaz Rahman  
BC Society of Transition Houses  
#507-475 Howe Street  
Vancouver, BC V6C 2B3  
Tel: 604-669-6943  
Fax: 604-682-6962  
Email: ShahnazRahman@bcysth.ca

Lianne Ritch, Nurse Clinician/SANE Coordinator  
Sexual Assault Service  
BC Women's Service  
BC Women's Hospital  
4500 Oak Street  
Vancouver, BC V6H 3N1  
Tel: 604-875-3284  
Fax: 604-875-2041  
Email: lritch@cw.bc.ca

Andrea Rolls, Program Manager  
Victim Services Division  
Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General  
#302-815 Hornby Street  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E6  
Tel: 604-775-2331  
Fax: 604-660-5340  
Email: andrea.rolls@gems8.gov.bc.ca

Tracee Schmidt  
Women's Health Bureau  
5-2 1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 3C8  
Tel: 250-952-1724  
Fax: 250-952-2205

Email: [tracee.schmidt@moh.hnet.bc.ca](mailto:tracee.schmidt@moh.hnet.bc.ca)

Greta Smith, former Executive Director  
BC Society of Transition Houses  
#507-475 Howe Street  
Vancouver, BC V6C 2B3

Anneke Van Vliet, Coordinator/Counsellor  
Sexual Assault Service  
BC Women's Hospital  
4500 Oak Street  
Vancouver, BC V6H 3N1  
Tel: 604-875-2881  
Fax: 604-875-2041  
Email: [avanvliet@cw.bc.ca](mailto:avanvliet@cw.bc.ca)

Cathy Welch  
Cowichan Women Against Violence Against Women  
#304-80 Station Street  
Duncan, BC V9L 1M4  
Tel: 250-748-7000  
Fax: 250-748-9364  
Email: [cwelch@cwav.org](mailto:cwelch@cwav.org)

Cindy Cady (Johnston), former Team Leader  
Victoria Protective Family Services Team #2  
Ministry of Children and Family Development  
PO Box 9744 Stn. Prov. Govt.  
Victoria, BC V8W 9S3

Dr. Liz Whynot, Vice President  
Women's & Family Health Programs  
BC Women's Hospital  
4500 Oak Street  
Vancouver, BC V6H 3N1  
Tel: 604-875-3522  
Fax: 604-875-2041  
Email: [ewhynot@cw.bc.ca](mailto:ewhynot@cw.bc.ca)

Shashi Assanand, Executive Director  
Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society  
5000 Kingsway Plaza – Phase 3  
#306-4980 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC V5H 4K7  
Tel: 604-436-1025  
Fax: 604-436-3267  
Email: [mfss@amssa.bc.ca](mailto:mfss@amssa.bc.ca)

Cindy Holmes, Program Manager  
BC Association of Specialized Victim Assistance and Counselling Programs  
728-602 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 1P2  
Tel: 604-633-2506  
Fax: 604-633-2507  
Email: [holmes@endingviolence.org](mailto:holmes@endingviolence.org)

Virge Silveira  
Aboriginal Women's Provincial Family Violence Leadership Program  
C/o Jill Cory  
BC Women's Hospital  
E408-4500 Oak Street  
Vancouver, BC V6H 3N1  
Tel: 604-875-3717

## **BEST PRACTICE APPROACHES: CHILD PROTECTION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

This document contains best practice approaches that provides information and gives guidance to workers providing protective services when assessing and intervening in situations involving violence against women when children may be at risk of harm. A major focus of the document is understanding that the safety and well-being of children are often dependent on the safety of the non-abusing mother and that wherever possible, supportive services should be offered to the mother in order to enhance her ability to continue to care safely for her child(ren). (source: Geffner, Jaffe, Suderman; 2000) These best practice approaches promote an integrated response that links the safety of children with their mother's safety wherever possible, and attempts to build on the strengths between women's and child protection services.<sup>1</sup>

### **Legislation and Standards That Apply**

This document is to be interpreted and administered so that the safety and well-being of children are the paramount considerations and in accordance with the guiding principles and service delivery principles of the Child, Family and Community Service Act, relevant standards, and the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services (COA) standard S10.5.03 that states "the organization collaborates with domestic violence specialists to intervene with and provide services to families that have a history of, or at risk for, domestic violence".

### **Why This Document Was Developed**

This document was developed to address expressed concerns of child protection workers and of clinicians who provide services to women and children in violent relationships.

### **Societal Beliefs and Values**

Abused women are often judged harshly and characterized inaccurately by descriptions such as dysfunctional, unstable, weak and passive. Judgements about abused women that still exist in our society include: women are responsible for their partner's violent behaviour; women are weak for staying in abusive relationships; and women are bad mothers for "allowing" their children to be exposed to the violence. These beliefs can influence the way women are assessed as mothers and lead to inappropriate interventions. Although some abused women abuse their children, research and experience dictate that most abused women demonstrate strength and resilience in trying to keep their child(ren) and themselves safe. An understanding of these dynamics is important for child protection workers in order to respond in a supportive manner as possible.

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<sup>1</sup> Note:

1. The term "violence against women in relationships" encompasses common-law and dating relationships, and has been chosen after much debate and concern expressed over the use of gender neutral terms which fail to identify that the overwhelming majority of victims of violence within relationships are female. The term "spouse assault" is used in the British Columbia Crown Counsel Policy manual and in most police policies. It is recognized that throughout Canada various terms are used, such as women abuse, wife assault, family violence, conjugal violence, domestic violence and relationship violence.

2. In addition to addressing the issue of children who are exposed to violence against women in heterosexual relationships, this document can be used in situations where children are exposed to violence of men in homosexual relationships, of vulnerable males in heterosexual relationships, and of women in lesbian relationships. (Source: Adapted from: Violence Against Women In Relationships Policy; Jan. 2000).

3. It is recognized that some women in violent relationships are abusive to their children. The document applies to these situations as well.

4. The document should be used recognizing the uniqueness of each person and family. Services should be provided in a culturally sensitive manner, using interpreters when necessary.

## **Dynamics and Impact of Violence Against Women in Relationships**

Violence is used by abusers to establish control over their partners. They use abusive tactics to control partners' actions that are often successful because of the fear and isolation a victim feels. Abusive tactics include but are not limited to:

- verbal abuse – insults, degrading language, “silent treatment”
- emotional abuse – threats to remove, harm or kill children, pets, relatives, self; threats of reporting to government authorities such as Immigration, Child Protection, Revenue Canada
- psychological abuse - stalking, excessive suspicions, controlling partner's actions
- physical abuse or threats of physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- isolation – from children, relatives, community, Aboriginal bands, employment,

Although the impact of this abuse affects each woman differently, general impacts include but are not limited to:

- living in constant fear
- being psychologically, verbally, physically and sexually abused
- forced to be economically and emotionally dependent upon the abusive partner
- while she may be very skilled at assessing and responding to the risk to her safety and that of her children, she may appear to be compliant or passive
- being afraid that if she leaves she will lose her ability to monitor and determine her partner's moods and actions and thus her ability to be in control of her safety and that of her children
- becoming socially isolated including loss of contact with her family, friends and other supports
- being paralysed with fear, knowing that every action or decision she makes could increase the danger to her and her children
- contemplating suicide as the only way to escape the abuse -history of minor attempts, occasionally completing suicide.
- being murdered by her partner

(Source: Adapted from Chart from Children of Battered Women. P. Jaffe, D. Wolfe & S. Wilson; Sage Publications, 1990)

(for further information on same-sex violence please refer to appendices #1 & #2)

## **Mothering In the Context of Abuse**

A woman with children who is in an abusive relationship faces two competing challenges. First she has to go to great lengths to calculate how to protect herself and her children. Second, she has to determine how she can practically care for herself and children if she chooses to leave her partner. Women may stay in or leave an abusive relationship for the sake of their children. Being aware of the risks and difficulties that a woman and her children face in leaving an abusive relationship can assist child protection workers in recognizing her strengths and developing service plans that reflect the complexity of her situation.

(please refer to appendix #1 for further information)

## **Impact Upon Children Who Are Exposed to Violence**

A careful assessment of each child is extremely important as not all children who witness violence against their mothers show immediate consequences. Studies estimate that between 60% to 80% of children in families where violence against women occurs are exposed to the abuse either by seeing it or by overhearing it. (Source: A Handbook for Health and Social Service Providers and Educators on Children Exposed to Woman Abuse/Family Violence: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 1999). Studies have documented multiple problems among children that are significantly associated with a child's exposure to abusive behaviour of one parent by another. Serious emotional and behavioural problems such as



depression, worry, school refusal, withdrawal from social interactions, and aggression against peers, teachers and mother are seen at elevated rates (e.g. between 10 and 17 times greater) than in children from non-violent homes (Source: Jaffe, Wolfe and Wilson, 1990; Stermberu et al, 1993; Suderman and Jaffe, 1997; Jaffe, Wolfe, Wilson and Sluszcza, 1986; Kerig et al., 1998). Additionally, children may be injured – either intentionally or accidentally - during attacks on their mother. (source: Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, and Youth Violence: Strategies for Prevention and Early Intervention)

In addition to understanding the impact upon children who are exposed to violence it is also important to understand factors and/or interventions that tend to reduce or mitigate the negative effects. There is evidence to show that for most children there will be substantial improvements in behaviour and emotional states if the child ceases to live with the abusive parent and that therapy for the child is often helpful. (Source: Spousal Violence in Custody and Access Disputes: Recommendations for Reform, Bala et al, March 1998). As a least disruptive measure, keeping the children with their non-abusing mothers in a safe environment is desirable wherever possible.

## **Obstacles to Leaving an Abusive Relationship**

It may be difficult or impossible for a woman to leave the relationship because of love, cultural/religious values, socio-economic condition, fear or the denial of the violence in the relationship. Violence often escalates and may continue or worsen if the woman leaves the relationship. (Source: Violence vs Women and Children, part 1, VAWIR policy; Jan. 2000, MAG)

Other reasons for staying in an abusive relationship include:

- Being blamed for the violence
- Being expected to stop his violence
- Hoping for change in the future
- Feeling ashamed and responsible about being abuse
- Being worried that she couldn't protect her children if they had visitation alone with her partner
- Threats by the abuser to abduct or gain custody of the children if she leaves
- Lack of access to support services such as: financial and legal aid, housing, transportation
- The fear of being killed or fear of the children being killed.

Some women decide to stay or return to their abusing partner as they feel it is the best way of protecting their children. Being with the abuser allows the woman to observe the abuser's actions, to witness the cycle of violence and to prepare herself and her children for the onset of violence. Knowing is safer than not knowing.

Immigrant, refugee, Aboriginal women, women with disabilities and lesbian, bisexual and transexual women, may have even further restrictions about their choice to leave an abusive relationship such as: fear of authority figures/state control of their lives, fear of not being believed, fear of discrimination, fear of deportation, fear of ostracism from family/community, communication and access barriers.

(please refer to appendix #3 for more information on immigrant and refugee women)

## **Effective Intervention**

Effective child protection intervention should be guided by an understanding of the dynamics of abuse and carried out in collaboration with women's transition house workers, stopping the violence counsellors, specialized victim assistance workers, multicultural support workers and aboriginal/metis family support workers to reflect a co-ordinated approach to this complex issue. Throughout child protection involvement, the following concepts about violence against women in relationships should be considered:

- The abuser should be held accountable for the violence, not the woman (source: Geffner, Jaffe, Suderman, 2000)

- When mothers are the non-abusing caregivers, child protection workers should provide co-ordinated, culturally sensitive and wherever possible, voluntary support services to them to enhance their own safety and that of their children.
- Abusers often escalate the frequency and lethality of violence when women try to leave or to use outside intervention.
- Most abusive partners present as being non-violent outside of their intimate relationships hence they have the ability to control their behaviour. Anger management courses may not be an appropriate intervention. (Source: The Duluth Safety and Accountability Audit: A Guide to Assessing Institutional Responses to Domestic Violence)
- Women who are fearful about the removal of their children usually will not be forthcoming about providing information to a child protection worker.
- If a determination is made that the children are at risk in their mother's care, appropriate services should be provided to the mother in a respectful, integrated, and culturally sensitive manner.
- If the removal of children is necessary, services should be provided in a manner that recognizes and supports the mother's strengths and need for safety.
- Engage mothers in determining and developing their own service plan goals and in identifying their needs and their children's needs for safety and support.

While many of the interventions suggested in this document are already integrated into child protection practices, these best practice approaches were developed specifically to assist child protection workers with the complex issues surrounding cases of children who are exposed to abuse of their mothers.

## **Best Practice Approaches:**

### **1. Receiving Reports:**

Not all violence against women situations need to be reported to a child protection worker. For example, children who accompany their mother to a transition house or to Children Who Witness Abuse programs do not fulfil the section 14 reporting requirement. (For clarification on reporting requirements, please refer to appendix #4)

If you have information to suspect that there is a situation involving violence ask:

- If there is a current or estranged partner posing a risk to the child(ren) and mother.
- If there are legal proceedings regarding custody underway.
- If the police have attended at the home at any time in the past and if so for what purpose.
- If the mother and children have left their home due to safety concerns.
- About the level (if any) of danger in the home i.e.
  - the presence of weapons, particularly firearms
  - if threats of violence have been heard by the reporter
    - who has made the threats
    - when
    - nature of threats
  - when the most recent violence occurred
  - what was the most dangerous violence occurred

If it is determined that there is a violence against women situation ask:

- about the location of the abuser
- if the reporter is fearful of retribution for reporting the situation or fearful for the woman's and children's safety.
- what the response might be to a child protection worker/police officer attending the home

If the information indicates that the family is involved in a custody and access dispute, please note:

- a custody and access order made by a provincial court does not necessarily mean that a child is safe from harm.
- in violence against women in relationships, violence towards the mother and possibly the child(ren) frequently escalates during court proceedings.

(Please refer to the appendix #5 for information pertaining to safety planning).

In situations of violence against women in relationships, the abuser and/or his family often control the partner by threatening her with the removal of her children and then reporting her to a child protection worker. Some abusive partners involved in custody and access situations will report their estranged partner to a child protection worker in an attempt to build a “better case” against the mother. The motivation for the reports may be an attempt to control the mother as opposed to a realistic concern for the children’s safety and well-being although this can also occur. If the reporter is a current or estranged partner, be cognizant of the preceding dynamics and complete a careful assessment of all of the pertinent information.

Additionally, an allegation of mutual aggression is often raised by the primary aggressor – the person in the relationship who is the most compelling as opposed to the first aggressor – as a defence with respect to an assault against their partner. (Please refer to the MAG policy on Primary Aggressor). Each situation must be thoroughly assessed in order to determine who is most vulnerable and how best to respond.

In violence against women in relationships the safety of the child is usually connected to the safety of the mother. Therefore, it is essential that child protection workers ask questions pertaining to the existence and nature of recent and/or current violence against women in order to assess the mother’s safety as a way of assessing the safety of the child

Violence towards the mother frequently escalates during intervention, separation, and/or court proceedings. The safety needs of both the mother and her children are important considerations in determining a response.

Some service providers hesitate or are reluctant to report a situation due to not knowing and/or not being kept informed of the process. When you receive such calls from service providers discuss their issues or ethical dilemmas relating to reporting and help them understand the reporting requirements. This cooperative approach serves the best interest of women’s safety and maximizes their support network.

A meeting with the caller and/or client (if she wishes) to gather information in a place designated by the caller and/or client can be helpful for two reasons:

- It will help to demystify the child protection social worker role by meeting the worker personally and may reduce the amount of anxiety about ministry involvement.
- It may empower the client by providing her with the opportunity to talk about her situation in a supportive environment.

A client’s refusal to meet can be due to fear of the unknown or past negative experiences or she may have other valid reasons that should be explored.

## **2. Determining an Appropriate Response**

The type of response will be based upon an assessment of the information and the individual circumstances of the mother’s and family situation. The presence of children in a situation where violence against their mother exists does not necessarily warrant an investigation. It may be an

opportunity to provide support services using a culturally sensitive strength based assessment or refer the mother and children to existing appropriate support and services.

If it is determined that a child protection investigation is required, please refer to the heading entitled “planning and conducting an investigation” beginning on page nine of this document.

When offering voluntary services to the woman, ensure as much as possible that she is aware of existing supportive resources and safety planning. If she does not have a safety plan, try to ensure that she develops one with the assistance of the ministry or another woman serving organization of the mother’s choosing. Voluntary services should also include resources to help the parents understand the potential impact of violence upon the child(ren).

If the woman indicates she is not interested in receiving voluntary services, try to ensure that the mother knows someone she can contact in order to develop a safety plan for herself and her children.

(Please refer to appendix #7 for a list of contacts and appendix #5 for information regarding safety planning)

### **3. Contacting the Police**

Although you are required to report allegations of child abuse to the police, you are not required to report a crime against an adult, e.g. relationship violence against the mother, to the police. A woman may choose not to contact the police regarding violence in her relationship often because of the increased risk of harm to herself or her children or because of fear or mistrust of authority figures.

Some Aboriginal women who have not experienced previous police intervention as helpful might be fearful of further involvement with them. Similarly, some abused women may come from countries where authority figures, particularly those in uniform, do not provide every citizen with protection and support and consequently may be fearful of police involvement.

For example, in an Ontario study, 62.2% of battered immigrant women interviewed said that the “fear that I will lose everything (house, children, reputation, everything I have worked for) once I involve the police” was a “somewhat or very important” reason for not calling the police.

In this same study, 42.5% of the women interviewed said that “fear that husband/partner will be brutalized/victimized by police” was “somewhat or very important” reason for not calling the police. (source: Wife Assault: Violence Against Women in Relationships. (1993) MAG)

In some situations, you may have notified the police due to your own safety. Try wherever possible and practical to advise the mother of the police involvement.

In cases where the police are involved try to ensure that you and the police co-ordinate your activities to promote the safety and protection for both the mother and the child. Ask the police about information on any criminal activities and/or criminal order of all members of the household including information on any past and current protection orders contained in the public protection order registry. You and the police investigators should be aware of the dynamics of violence against women in intimate relationships, the impact of relationship violence on women and children exposed to relationship violence, and the risk factors that indicate the relationship violence will be repeated. You should initiate and co-ordinate safety planning with the mother and the children, including referral to legal, crisis housing, counselling and victim and other support services where appropriate.

In cases where police undertake a child abuse or neglect investigation, ensure that the investigation is conducted according to the protocol described in the *Handbook for Action on Child Abuse and Neglect*.

The ministry of the Attorney General and the R.C.M.P have Violence Against Women in Relationship (VAWIR) policies that describe their response to these situations.

(Please refer to appendix #6 for an outline of risk factors associated with the re-occurrence of relationship violence and appendix #5 for the safety planning tool.)

#### 4. Planning and Conducting an Investigation

When planning an investigation, consideration should be given to consulting with the following persons to develop an initial plan before beginning an investigation:

- the woman (unless she is suspected of physically/sexually harming the child\*) should be advised to contact a support person during this process although she may not be able to for various reasons such as living in an isolated community
- a service provider who has a strong knowledge about dynamics of violence against women in relationships in order to address safety issues pertaining to the mother and child (please refer to appendix # 7 for a list of contacts). Please note: Unless there is consent to share information, only non-identifying information should be discussed.
- the police, only if involved in the child protection investigation and /or for safety reasons

In order to ensure the mother's and children's safety as much as possible, consider issues such as:

- when and how to contact the mother,
- the safest place and time to interview the mother and the children
- suggestions for a safety plan if required (please refer to appendix #5 for safety planning)

\* In situations where the mother is suspected of maltreating her child(ren), she also should be advised of her choice to contact a support person during the investigation process.

##### Helpful Reminders:

Try to find out the mother's schedule in order to know how and when to contact her.

Don't leave messages with a member of the family or on a telephone answering machine.

Be aware that the family might have a "call display" telephone in which case your place of employment can be traced via your telephone number.

If telephoning the mother at her home, check that it is safe for her to speak to you by asking questions such as:

- "Can you speak freely?"
- "Is now a good time to talk?"

Try arranging a meeting where you know the abuser will not be present for example, at a school.

Applying an understanding of women's experience of abuse in relationships in interviewing the woman can enhance the service relationship and increase the potential for reaching safe solutions for the woman and her children.

##### More Helpful reminders:

Use your understanding of the impacts of abuse upon women in order to avoid making inaccurate assessments about their behaviour and resultant parenting ability. (Please refer to appendix 1 for information about the impact of abuse upon women.)

Recognize the woman's strengths and build on the strategies that she has used to keep herself and her children safe. Making a statement such as: "I know that you are doing many things to keep yourself and you children safe. I'm interested in hearing about them" might encourage the woman to talk about her attempts to protect her children.

Respect the woman's ability to make choices within the constraints of child protection practice.

Share knowledge and information.

Provide services that are accessible from the perspective of the woman.

Provide interpretation services that allow safe discussion about her experiences and supporting solutions that respect and account for women's cultural and religious values. (Adapted from "Alternatives to Apprehension: Education, Action and Advocacy" [Buchwitz, 2001] report)

Ask questions such as: "What assistance do you need to keep your children safe?" rather than making statements such as: "It's your responsibility to keep your children safe from your partner". This kind of approach is not helpful for a woman who is in an abusive relationship as most do feel a responsibility to protect their children and often feel blamed by professionals. A statement while not intended to imply blame will likely cause the woman to become defensive or fearful and could compromise your relationship and her safety.

Discuss her concerns and needs for support and safety. A question such as: "What do you think might help you be safe from the abuse?" might be a helpful way to start the discussion.

Advise the woman of the following for safety purposes:

- when you/police plan to contact family members particularly the alleged abuser
- if for any reason the contact is delayed
- after you have made contact with the alleged abuser
- that you will not disclose her and/or her child's location to the perpetrator or anyone without her knowledge and permission

## **5. The Child's Immediate Safety**

If concern exists about the child's immediate safety or safety during the investigation:

- explain reasons for the concern to the woman in a direct, non-blaming manner
- elicit woman's and service provider's suggestions for a safety plan for the children
- develop a safety plan that tries to keep the child with the mother if possible by focusing on her safety, her strengths, supportive resources you can provide and other available resources
- explore how finances, threats and other issues might impact upon her options
- ensure that the woman understands that this is an interim plan that will be in effect at least until the investigation is completed

(Note: when conducting this assessment, it might be helpful to refer to appendix 6 for risk factors that indicate the relationship violence may be repeated)

Helpful questions include:

- "Have you thought about leaving and going to stay with family, friends or to a transition house for safety reasons." Some women may not know what a transition house is and may be reluctant to admit this to you. Asking a question such as: "Would you like me to tell you a bit

about the transition house in your area?” might be a more helpful way of conveying the information.

- “Do you have concerns about what your partner might do if you left with the children?” If the woman has concerns, discuss what you can do to support her such as obtaining a section 28 restraining order as well as other options.
- “If there were one or two things that you think would help you and your children to be safer in this situation, what would they be?” “Let’s work together to see if that can happen.”

## **6. Determining the Child’s Need for Protection**

If a determination is made that the child needs protection from the abusive partner:

- discuss with support person or service provider who has knowledge about violence against women in relationships about the best way to advise the caller if the caller is a family member or a person who poses a risk to the safety of other family members
  - A child who has been found to be in need of protection may have been protected from more extensive harm from the non-violent parent. Determine if and how this occurred and use these strengths in the formulating a plan for the child’s safety.
  - Ask the mother how you and she can work together in order to create an environment that is safe from abuse for both herself and her children.
  - Ensure that the mother and the violent partner have separate service plans. Separate service plans assist in maintaining confidential information that if known, could pose a safety risk to the mother and the children.
  - Determine what services have been and are currently being used by the mother and abusing partner before developing the risk reduction service plans with new services and supports.
  - Refer to next heading entitled: Planning Effective Ways to Protect Child(ren)

If a determination is made that the child needs protection from the non-violent partner:

- advise the mother of this decision using a non-blaming statement such as: “I know that the abuse is not your fault, but my concern is that the children are in a vulnerable situation and I am worried that they are not safe. I’m also concerned about your safety.”
- consider supportive interventions such as:
  - discussing with the woman and attempting to understand her reasons for returning to or remaining with her abusive partner.
  - being careful to use words and a tone of voice that cannot be perceived by the woman as judgmental or blaming for choosing her partner over her children.
  - ensuring that the woman has a safety plan
  - ensuring that the woman has been given referral to anti-violence women’s organizations for support in a non-coercive manner.
  - working with the mother to help her understand how she can create a safe environment for herself and her children.

If a decision is made that the child does not need protection,

- In addition to advising the caller, advocate/service provider and woman of the decision, consider the provision of voluntary services or referral for voluntary services if they are relevant and if the woman wishes. Work collaboratively with the woman and service providers to determine other services that might be helpful.
- Offer anti-violence community services to the woman in a way that is intended to support her efforts to live safely.
- Remember that because of your authority clients may perceive that they must accept any services offered even if they are voluntary. Reassuring the clients that the services are truly voluntary and that there will be no consequences relating to the removal of their children for choosing not to participate might be helpful.

- Try to ensure that the mother has a safety plan in place for herself and child(ren) in case of future assaults, or that the mother knows who to contact in order to assist in the development of a safety plan.  
(Refer to appendix #5 for a sample of a personal safety plan.)

## 7. Effective Ways to Protect Child(ren)

Effective ways and services to protect the child should be made with the goal of developing family and community capacity to care safely for child(ren) as primary consideration.

Wherever possible, ensure that the mother and her support person (if the mother wishes) along with others involved with the child are involved in discussing options that will assist the mother to ensure the safety of her children. Options may include:

- Providing support services that will keep mother safe so that she can care for her children. These can include: children who witness abuse programs; counselling programs for the violent partner; anti-violence woman's organizations;
- Having the children reside with their mother and obtaining a protective intervention order against the abuser with the mother's consent pursuant to CFCSA section 28. Under this order, the court may authorize a police officer to arrest, without warrant, the person against whom the protective intervention order is made if the police officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the person has contravened or is contravening the protection intervention order. This order will be included in the Protective Order Registry so that police will have access to it however it is helpful for the mother to have her own copy of the order.
- Having the children reside with their mother under an order of supervision pursuant to section 29.1(1)(a) and (b)  
As both of the above measures involve a court order, the alleged abuser must be served and has a right to appear in court. Depending upon the situation, this might not be the most helpful intervention. Ensure that the non-abusive parent is aware of the court process and who has a right to be present before deciding upon this kind of response.
- Supporting the mother to arrange for a friend or family member to care for the children
- Using a section 8 agreement to have the children reside with a care provider selected by their mother. This approach can be helpful when you are concerned about the mother's ability to care for her child(ren) and/or the mother needs/wants an opportunity to formulate a plan for herself and her children. A section 8 agreement can be used in situations such as:
  - the mother continues to reside with the violent partner, or
  - the mother has left the violent partner but concern exists that she will return with her children before necessary changes to ensure the children's safety have occurred
  - the selected care providers need financial assistance to care for the child(ren)
- Using a voluntary care agreement and placing the children with relatives, friends or a ministry approved foster family.
- Removing the child(ren) through a court order and arranging placement with relatives, friends or a ministry approved foster family as a last resort.

If you are attempting to have the mother separate from her violent partner as part of the service plan, it is important to remember that the abuser often reacts to the mother's attempts to separate by becoming more violent thereby increasing the risk to her and the children. A goal of having the mother separate from the abusive partner should be made only if there are sufficient safe guards in place such as:

- A place for the mother and children to stay that is unknown to the abuser
- A restraining or protective intervention order that is listed on the protective order registry
- Involved professionals who are aware of the risks to the mother and children posed by the abusive partner and who will notify police of threatening behaviour
- Police being aware of the situation



- The mother having a safety plan for herself and her children that includes 24 hour emergency numbers (For a suggested safety plan, please refer to Appendix #5)

Other crisis and long-term strategies may include:

- Requesting that crown counsel ask the judge/justice of the peace to impose conditions on the violent partner relating to the safety of the children and mother at a bail hearing
- Requesting that crown counsel ask the judge to include conditions relating to the safety of the children and mother in the violence partner's sentence
- Discussing with the woman the idea of obtaining a civil restraining order under the Family Relations Act.

## **8. Preparing for MCFD Family Court Hearings**

If a child protection decision is made that involves a court appearance, consider the following in order to ensure the safety of the mother as much as possible:

- Explain the court process to the mother so that she will know what to expect, i.e. who is allowed to attend, a description of the court room, the role of the people involved in the court process, where she will be seated, her testimony if required
- Ensure that the mother's address is not included on any court documents to which the abuser has access
- If the child is living with his/her mother, ensure that the child's address is not included on documents to which the abuser has access

Note: if identifying information has been included on the documents, arrange for your legal counsel to explain to the judge that it should not be given to the abuser for safety reasons

- If the mother is to be called as a witness, ensure that the mother is referred to a specialized victim assistance/ woman's advocate program
- Discuss with your legal representative the importance of not asking the mother for her address or the address of the child during her testimony
- Prepare separate safety service plans for the mother and the abuser to present to the judge. The abuser's service plan should address his responsibility for the violence.
- Ensure that the mother is safely escorted in and out of the courtroom and court building if necessary and that she has a safe place to wait out of sight of the abusive partner before and after the court hearing.
- Ensure that those persons involved with providing court security are informed of the safety situation and safety requirements.
- Advise the court of the need for interpreter services.

## **9. Ongoing Protective Family Service**

The service plan will vary depending upon whether the mother and children:

- remain with the abusing partner
- separate from the abusing partner
- separate and return to the abusing partner,

Ensure that there is on-going communication with knowledgeable service providers to determine and clarify roles and responsibilities to the protection and safety of both the mother and children.

Ensure that there is communication with service providers if a service stops and/or is discontinued for a period of time.

## 10. Building Relationships and Information Sharing

Wherever possible, attempts should be made to obtain the consent of the mother and children who are over twelve years to share information.

Under CFCSA section 79 (a), (a)1, child protection workers may disclose information without consent if it pertains to the safety and well-being of children or the safety of a person other than a child.

Under CFCSA section 96, a child protection worker has a right to information that is in the custody or control of a public body and that is necessary for child protection workers to carry out their duties under the CFCS Act.

A refusal by a service provider and/or agency that is not a public body should not be viewed as an unwillingness to cooperate. It should be recognized that they are complying with their confidentiality policies. If this occurs and there are reasonable grounds to believe a record contains information necessary for determining whether a child needs protection, a child protection worker may apply to court under section 65 for an order to release the information.

**Note:** Women's anti violence programs do not constitute a 'public body' and section 96 of CFCSA does **not** apply. MCFD workers should apply to the court in accordance with section 65 of the CFCSA for an order to release information.

### **Community participation**

Participation and support by child protection workers in violence against women in relationships coordination committees and any other coordination committee that supports violence against women initiatives would assist in increasing on-going cooperation and communication between service providers and MCFD and ultimately increase safety to women and children.

#### Note:

A public body includes a B.C. government ministry, an agency, board, commission, office, corporation or other body designated by regulation under FOIPPA and a local public body. It does not include a political office (members or officers of the Legislative Assembly), Provincial Court, Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal of physicians (the College of Physicians and Surgeons was added to FOIPPA definition of "public body" but applies only to administrative information, not to a patient's personal information).

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: Linking the Safety of Women and their Children: An Integrated Approach to Woman Abuse and Child Protection

#### Introduction to the Resource Paper

A major focus of the *Best Practice Approaches: Child Protection and Violence Against Women* is to recognize the reality that the safety of the mother is linked to the safety of the child and that wherever possible, supportive services should be provided to the mother in order to enhance her ability to care safely for her child(ren). Child protection workers will best be able to accomplish this if they understand the overlap between woman abuse and child protection, dynamics of woman abuse, women's experience of being abused, the impact of this abuse for women and mothering in the context of abuse. In addition, this document describes an integrated approach for meeting the safety needs of children while providing supportive services to women so that women's safety remains a parallel consideration throughout child protection involvement.

In order for child protection workers to respond to women experiencing abuse in relationship and their children in a helpful and supportive manner, this document includes the following information about violence against women in relationships:

- overlap between child protection and violence against women and the importance of providing a coordinated, women-centred response in these situations
- challenges of mothering in the context of woman abuse
- the social context of abuse and the further effects of woman abuse upon marginalized women
- the dynamics of violence against women, the impact upon women and upon children who are exposed to it
- barriers to accessing supports and considerations for leaving an abusive relationship
- best practice approaches in situations of violence against women in relationships

#### Why this Document was Developed

In June 2000, a partnership of provincial organizations representing community and hospital based agencies that provide services to adults, adolescents and children who are survivors of violence, submitted a discussion paper to the former Ministries for Children and Families, Attorney General, Health and Women's Equality. The paper outlined critical issues relating to the service provision for women, youth and children who were/are exposed to violent relationships. Of note were situations in which children who were exposed to abuse were considered to be in need of protection. Clarification about the interpretation of the need for protection was requested in these cases where children were witnesses to the abuse of their mothers, but not themselves abused.

Secondly, an interpretation of the previous section 14 of the Child, Family and Community Service Act meant that an adolescent who was sexually assaulted by a peer had to be reported to the MCFD as a child in need of protection. The report stated that as a result of these two situations, mothers, children and youth were not accessing needed safety, counselling and medical resources due to their fear of ministry involvement. Service providers expressed concern that some ministry intervention was unintentionally compromising women's and children's safety rather than ensuring it.

As a result of consultation between representatives from the provincial organizations and the involved ministries, a decision was made to develop best practice approaches for child protection intervention in situations of violence against women. The document has been written in co-

operation and extensive consultation with representatives from agencies that provide health care, counselling and support programs and services to women, adolescents and children.

### **Integrating Child Protection and Women-Centred Approaches**

Because of the significant overlap between the child's safety and the safety of the mother in the context of violence against women, it is more complex for child protection workers to assess and intervene. Historically, the development of independent services for women and children has separated the safety needs of women and their children. This document encourages an approach that links the safety of children with their mothers wherever possible and attempts to build on the strengths between women's and children's services.

*A significant obstacle to collaboration has been the tension caused by the different historical developments and missions of the domestic violence and child welfare movements. The domestic violence movement began less than 30 years ago in order to provide safety to battered women because public institutions were not doing so. Some women involved in violent relationships and their advocates viewed child protection services as yet another public institution that overlooked domestic violence and the needs of abused women, or blamed the women for the harm their abusive partners caused to their children.*

*Because of child protection's focus on the safety of the child, child protection workers did not consider the identification of domestic violence to be important to accomplishing child protection goals. When domestic violence was identified, child protection workers have often misunderstood its dynamics and held mothers responsible for ending it. Furthermore, as the domestic violence movement has focused primarily on the needs of women in abusive relationships, and been slower to directly address the needs of these women's children, child protection workers have not viewed transition house workers as potential allies in their efforts to protect children."*

(Child Protective Services and Domestic Violence; Jane E. Findlater, Susan Kelly: The Future of Children DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN Vol. 9. No3 – Winter 1999)

A child's safety and well-being are, in fact, often dependent on the mother's safety. Transition house workers have recognized this and have provided women and their children with a safe place to go to escape the violence. While the political focus of transition house workers may have emphasized the rights of women, their efforts have always been to provide safety for both women and their children and should be seen as allies in this work.

Creating safety for children requires communities to respond to eliminate the risks which children and their mothers face. In order to ensure the safety and well-being of children and the non-abusing woman, all relevant services must work together for a coordinated, collaborative response -- ministry child protection workers, women's transition house workers, stopping the violence counsellors, specialized victim assistance workers, multicultural support workers and aboriginal/metis family support workers. A mutual understanding and respect of roles, responsibilities and areas of expertise as well as clear on-going communication throughout our involvement will assist in establishing a co-operative working relationship which in turn, will help to support and ensure the safety of women and their children.

### **What is woman-centred service?**

Providing woman-centred service is fundamental to women's empowerment and safety. This approach is not in conflict with a child protection approach but recognizes women's safety can be an important factor in the safety and protection of their children.

The purpose of this document is to understand the overlap between child protection and woman-centred approaches. Understanding women's experience of abuse in relationships is fundamental

to providing appropriate, supportive and safe responses for women and their children. Some other key aspects of a woman-centred approach include:

- recognizing and building on a woman's existing strengths
- recognizing that women use many strategies to keep themselves and their children safe
- developing a trusting and respectful relationship
- respecting women's ability to make choices within legal limits
- empowering women through collaborative decision making, respecting choices, sharing knowledge and information
- providing services that are accessible from the perspective of the woman
- respecting cultural diversity and recognizing that all forms of marginalization affect women's experiences and may limit options
- countering stereotypes about violence and specific groups
- providing interpretation services that allow safe discussion about her experiences
- supporting 'solutions' that respect and account for women's cultural and religious values
- building resources with women and the larger community
- engaging in a collaborative approach with anti-violence women's organizations and other systems to ensure a coordinated community response to end violence against women and their children.

(Adapted from "Alternatives to Apprehension: Education, Action and Advocacy" [Buchwitz, 2001] report)

Anti-violence women's organizations have always considered it to be their mandate to develop relationships with women (clients) that are free from coercion, inequality, power dynamics or punitive consequences so that women may experience relationships of trust, mutuality and respect. It is believed that it is the workers' role to earn that trust. As well as building a partnership with the woman, a woman-centred approach encourages relationship building, respect and collaboration between child protection services, women (clients) and needed services (Callahan, 1993) to achieve safety for women and their children.

It is important to understand how a woman's past may influence the way she interacts with child protection services. Recognizing the impact of her past will help to meet the goals of woman-centred service. Some women, as children, may have been removed from their families and placed in the care of child protection services, residential schools or foster care and experienced further abuse. Some groups - immigrant and refugee women, aboriginal women, poor women, women who use alcohol or drugs and women involved in the sex trade - have experienced state harassment, police brutality, investigation and interrogation in their lives. These experiences can contribute to mistrust and fear of people in positions of power and authority such as child protection workers, counsellors, police, health care providers, etc. This distrust should be understood in the context of women's lives and social history. Rather than labelling her as uncooperative, non-compliant or difficult, she could be viewed as using her experience to guide her decisions and protect her from further harm.

Despite efforts to keep a woman and her children together, a child protection worker's intervention may lead to the decision that the non-abusing woman is not able to protect her children from the abuser. However, a woman-centred approach can still apply. Woman-centred practice in this context could mean understanding a woman's reasons for returning to or remaining with an abusive partner, not blaming a woman if it appears that she has "chosen" her partner over her children, not punishing the woman by withholding access to her children, ensuring that the woman has developed a safety plan and she has been given referrals to anti-violence women's organizations for support in a non-coercive manner. It also means continuing to work with the woman to help her understand how she can create a safe environment for herself and her children, develop a service plan independent of her partner and ensure that she is not treated as the perpetrator. A woman should be offered anti-violence community services, but

these should not be offered in a way that is coercive or punitive (for example, a woman will be allowed access to her children if she attends mandatory counselling sessions).

### **Mothering in the Context of Woman Abuse**

A woman in an abusive relationship who has children faces two sets of painful challenges. First, she has to calculate how to protect herself and her children from physical dangers created by her partner. However, abused mothers also confront a second set of risks, sometimes more frightening than the first. If, for example, a woman considers a separation from her partner to protect herself and her children, where will she find housing and money to feed her family? What will she do if her partner reports her to child protection services as he has threatened to do? Who will baby-sit for the children when she has to go to work and her partner is no longer there? Will he try to kidnap the children? This second set of factors, or life-generated risks, enters into each abused woman's calculation of her children's safety. Deciding to leave her relationship does not guarantee the elimination of these risks; in fact, it may bring them to the fore.

Most women care deeply about their children's safety and go to great lengths to protect them from physical assaults, other risks and from the systemic harms of poverty, racism and isolation. Women who have experienced abuse have developed an enormous capacity for creative problem-solving, safety strategies, crisis management. They are often very resourceful and have usually attempted to find support for themselves and their children. Unfortunately, the systems are not always in place to support women and their children, and women report that sometimes these services add to the harms that women have experienced in their lives. Women have experienced disempowerment and loss of autonomy in abusive relationships and they bring this experience into their encounters with well-intentioned service providers. It is the role of all service providers to create support services that are empowering for women by exemplifying respectful, collaborative working relationships between providers and clients.

Service providers report that many women leave their abusive partner when they perceive that their children are at risk. Despite this, many people frequently ask, "Why do battered women stay when this places them and their children in jeopardy?" This question misses the way abused women calculate their risks and make decisions about leaving. The questions an abused woman may ask herself are more complex, such as: "If I leave, will the violence be worse?" "Should I leave and place myself and my children in poverty?" "If I leave and live on less money, my children will have to live in a more dangerous neighbourhood, and should I do this to them?" "Should I leave and risk losing my children in a custody battle with their abusive father?" Being aware of the risks and difficulties that a woman and her children face in leaving an abusive relationship can help child protection workers develop service plans that include the complexity of her situation. These service plans must reflect an appreciation of the obstacles women face when trying to fulfil the expectations of the service plan.

### **Social Context of Violence Against Women in Relationships**

Abuse of women has been condoned throughout history and in many different parts of the world. Woman abuse is a social problem, although it is often characterized as a personal problem that can lead to woman-blaming will finding excuses for men's violence. For example, women are blamed for "choosing" an abusive partner while men's abuse is described as a problem with anger management. Societal beliefs and institutions can contribute to violence against women (Ministry of AG Violence Against Women in Relationship Handbook, 1993).

### **Myths and Realities of Violence Against Women in Relationships**

While women's experience of abuse are complex and vary across culture, class, ethnicity, age, ability and sexual orientation, there are some common myths and social stereotypes about women and abuse in relationships.

MYTHS ABOUT ABUSED WOMEN	REALITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each partner is equally responsible for the abuse</li> <li>• Men can't control the abuse</li>   <li>• Women are attracted to abusive men</li> <li>• Abusive incidents are random and isolated</li> <li>• Women can be as abusive as their partners</li>   <li>• Women can provoke abuse or control abusive partners</li> <li>• Women are viewed as having deficits</li> <li>• Abuse is measured by severity and frequency or acts of physical violence</li> <li>• Abusive men are behaving in socially acceptable ways</li>   <li>• Abused women believe that abusive behaviour is normal</li> <li>• Abused women have low expectations of relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Abusive men are 100% responsible for violence against woman</li> <li>➤ Abusive men are in control and makes choices about who he abuses and where he is abusive</li> <li>➤ Abusive men initially conceal the abuse from a new partner</li> <li>➤ Abuse is patterned and intentional</li>   <li>➤ Distinguish between motives and intentions – women act to protect themselves and abusive men act to dominate and control their partners</li> <li>➤ Women are not responsible for the abuse</li> <li>➤ Women have developed safety and coping strategies</li> <li>➤ Abuse is measured by the impact – fear, health problems, mental health issues</li> <li>➤ Standards of parenting and relationship behaviour are lower for men than women</li> <li>➤ Women seek support and try to talk about the abuse and it is minimized, dismissed and ignored.</li> <li>➤ Relationship expectations have been eroded by the abuse.</li> </ul>

There are also extremely powerful and harmful myths and stereotypes that contribute to the further social marginalization of and increased violence towards women of colour, aboriginal women, low income women, immigrant and refugee women, young and older women, lesbians/bisexuals and transgendered women, sex trade workers and women with disabilities. These myths are based on ideas of what a 'normal' family is (ie. Nuclear family), who can/should be a mother (heterosexual, able-bodied, mature) and how to care for children (i.e woman is the primary caregiver, not extended family). Understanding our biases can help to alleviate the additional burden that women sometimes feel when they have contact with child protection and other services.

### **Dynamics of Violence Against Women in Relationships**

Understanding women's experience of abuse will assist child protection workers to remain sensitive to the issues faced by clients which can lead to more positive outcomes for children and their mothers.

Power and control are at the centre of abusive relationships. The abuser uses abusive tactics to maintain his power and control over the victim. A pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviours, often including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion are tactics that adults and adolescents use against their intimate partners. (source: Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice).

*Abusive tactics include but are not limited to:*

- verbal abuse: insults, put-downs, degrading language, “silent treatment”
- emotional abuse: threats (e.g., threats to take away the children, threats to harm or kill the woman and/or the children, and/or relatives, parents, pets, or threats of suicide or murder-suicide, threats of deportation, threats of removal from an Aboriginal band, unpredictable behaviour, denying partner an opportunity to sleep.
- psychological abuse: undermining self-esteem, undermining the woman’s parenting decisions, accusing the woman of unfaithfulness and being excessively suspicious of the woman’s actions, keeping weapons/fire-arms in the house, stalking
- controlling financial resources of the family to dis-empower the woman, spending money on gambling, alcohol or drugs rather than on family expenses, forcing woman to commit welfare fraud, not paying child support, refusing to allow a woman to work or have her own bank account
- isolating the woman from extended family, friends, and social connections in the community (e.g., deciding to move to a community where the woman knows no one, refusing to allow the woman to go out with friends, discouraging or forbidding contact with the woman’s family, refusing to allow the woman to attend language or job training, work, medical/health care facilities)
- physical abuse: hitting, slapping, pushing, beating, choking, assault with a weapon, locking woman out of the house
- threats of physical abuse including driving recklessly and using weapons to threaten
- sexual abuse: any form of sexual activity that is non-consensual including use of pornography, affairs, extreme jealousy
- using culture to legitimize abuse, refusing to allow partner to learn Canadian language and culture, forcing her to adopt his cultural practices, isolating her spiritual/religious beliefs and community
- withholding or forcing the use of medication and/or forcing other inappropriate medical care, withholding care to an older woman or woman with disabilities
- harming or destroying family pets or property

### **Woman Abuse and Social Marginalization**

While violence affects all women regardless of culture, class, ethnicity, age, ability, occupation or sexual orientation, the impact of violence can be compounded by any of these forms of social marginalization.

### **Impact of Woman Abuse**

Many negative societal beliefs and stereotypes exist about women who are being abused. Abused women are often judged harshly and characterized by such descriptions as: dysfunctional, depressed or mentally unstable, passive, weak, slut, dependent, low self-esteem, irresponsible, co-dependent, selfish or aggressive. An understanding of the impact of abuse can help to reframe these negative judgements into women’s strengths, safety strategies and impact



of abuse. For example, a woman may appear passive and nervous and thought to be unable to care for herself, make decisions or even that she is trying to conceal something from the worker. The reality may be that she is fearful because her partner has threatened that if she reveals anything to the worker she will be 'punished'. Furthermore, she may have learned that appearing passive is a strategy in her relationship that keeps her somewhat safe - this is strength. Words such as co-dependent, low self-esteem or dysfunctional imply that a woman's character is deficient, rather than understanding these as the effects of living with an abusive partner in a relationship where she has little personal power or control. Rather than focussing on how many times a woman returns to her abusive partner, identifying the times that she has left under duress to keep her children safe would positively reframe her actions.

The focus for a woman being abused by her partner is to reduce the risk of abuse for herself and her child(ren). To accomplish this, she must remain constantly vigilant and attentive to her partner's moods, needs and demands. On the surface, a woman experiencing abuse may appear to be neglecting her own needs in order to try to stay safe. In fact, she is showing extremely good judgement by attending to her partner's every demand in an effort to keep herself and her children safe. Whenever possible, a child protection worker should try to identify and build on these strengths.

The biases about abused women are intensified when women are mothers, and can result in blaming mothers for risks or harms to their children. When children witness the abuse of their mothers, rather than holding the perpetrator responsible, women are often blamed for the harm to their children. Furthermore, women are then subject to intense scrutiny as bad mothers, and held up to much higher standards in order to prove their ability to protect and parent their children. Abused women are often very isolated. Some women sever relationships with friends and family because they fear they will be judged. They may feel like they are going crazy and are reluctant to tell friend or professionals about their experiences. Some women may have told a family member, friend or professional about her partner's abuse and may have been given unsafe advice, been judged or blamed for the abuse. Some men may move their families frequently whenever detection becomes likely, while other families may live in the same neighbourhood for years, with no one in the community taking action to assist the victims. (Source: A Handbook for Health and Social Service Providers and Educators on Children Exposed to Woman Abuse/Family Violence; Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, 1999). Women in rural communities may be isolated far from support and safety services and are even more vulnerable. In small communities, women fear that their privacy will not be maintained if they seek help from a professional.

Other impacts for women include:

- Being economically and emotionally dependent upon the abusive partner
- Being brainwashed by partner's tactics which may create unrealistic hope that he will change
- Being afraid that if she leaves she will lose her ability to monitor and determine her partner's moods. Actions and thus her ability to be in control of her own and her children's safety
- Being contained or confined/restricted by partner that may be mistakenly interpreted as a sign that partner "cares for the woman as well as family and helping professionals
- Being unable to convince partner of her loyalty, futilely guarding against accusations of "seductive" behaviour towards others
- Feeling powerless in custody issues, living in fear children will be kidnapped, struggling to maintain rights of children

## **Obstacles to Leaving an Abusive Relationship**

Women face difficult, sometime life-threatening decisions about staying or leaving their relationships. The goal is to develop services that could be a support for women and their children and not to add to the pressures and obstacles women face. Obstacles that women describe include:

- Pressure from friends, family, society to make relationship work
- Social stigma of being a 'battered woman' - having no value
- Feeling embarrassed and responsible about being abused
- Worried about not managing financially or practically on her own
- Worried that the abuser would become more violent if she left
- Worried that she couldn't protect her children if they had visitation alone with her partner
- Abuser has threatened to abduct or gain custody of the children
- Fear of being killed or her children being harmed or killed

For Aboriginal women, immigrant and refugee women, women with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered women, the obstacles they encounter are even greater:

- Legal and other institutions have an historic role in maintaining an imbalance of power based on race, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and age. For example, the sanctity of the home (private) is institutionally defended against the intervention of state (public) protection agencies. Men's authority in the family as disciplinarians, final words, and breadwinners is commonly upheld by religious and cultural institutions. Legal institutions (e.g., police, courts) are viewed not as avenues of help by many people but as obstacles to justice particularly for marginalized groups such as Aboriginal women, women of colour, gay/lesbian persons.

**Aboriginal Women** experiencing abuse identify particular obstacles:

A 1989 study by the Ontario Native Women's Association found that eight out of 10 Aboriginal women in Ontario had personally experienced family violence. Of those women, 87% had been injured physically and 57% had been sexually assaulted.

- the history of residential school abuse and separation from their families and communities by mainstream culture creates a legacy of mistrust
- their fear of disclosing the family secret violence because of their feelings of guilt and shame, as well as the fear of increased violence.
- their fear of shame and judgement from Family members
- the fact that their assaultive partner may have a position of esteem and power within the community
- their fear of having their children removed as well as the children's fear of discussing violence due to the possibility of being removed from their home, family and community

**Immigrant and Refugee Women** experiencing abuse identify particular obstacles:

- fear of deportation and believe that their whole existence in this country depends on the abuser. (refer to appendix: Assisting Immigrant and Refugee Women)
- they do not speak English and are unfamiliar with the "outside world".
- fears about authority figures i.e. police and/or government personnel based upon their experience.
- lack of knowledge about the child welfare system and/or fear that they may lose custody of their children

**Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual and Transgendered women** identify particular obstacles:

- Fear of being 'outed' to family, systems and experiencing homophobia, transphobia and other forms of oppression.
- Fear of discrimination for oneself and their abusive partner.
- Fear of isolation from other LGBT/queer people.
- Fear of experiencing abusive tactics from an ex-male partner and that her lesbian identity will be used against her in custody and access disputes.
- Staying to protect the children and for fear that in leaving they will lose custody or access to the children.

**Women with disabilities** experiencing abuse identify particular obstacles:

- violence may be committed by individuals – such as the husband or family member who is the woman's primary caregiver and on whom she is quite dependent
- in many situations, the woman is unable to give free and informed consent
- because of her dependency on others for her daily needs, the woman may fear the consequences of reporting the abuse
- disabled women may not be considered to be 'adequate' mothers

For women from diverse backgrounds, these life-generated risks may be further complicated: How do they manoeuvre their way through legal or service systems if their English language skills are limited? Will authorities be less sympathetic to their safety needs or those of their children? Based on their experiences, women may justifiably lack trust in authority figures or mainstream services. They may be reluctant to put their abusive partner in a system they may view as racist, homophobic and unfair. Finally, they may fear that there are no resources that are inclusive and aware of the issues of woman abuse compounded by social marginalization.

By understanding the experiences of social marginalization of women experiencing abuse in relationships, it is hoped that child protection responses will be inclusive of these issues.

## **Conclusion**

When determining and throughout child protection intervention, the following concepts about violence against women in relationships should be considered:

- Women who are fearful about the removal of their children usually will not be forthcoming about providing information to a child protection worker. Developing trust with a woman can occur if time is taken to understand the situation from her perspective.
- Some women decide to stay or return to their abusing partner as they feel it is the best way of protecting their children. Being with the abuser allows the woman to observe the abuser's actions, to witness the cycle of violence and to prepare herself and her children for the onset of the violence. Knowing is better than not knowing.
- Abusers often escalate their use of violence when women try to leave or to use outside intervention. Between 1991 and 1999, women were killed by spouses after separation at a rate of 39 per million couples as compared to a rate of 5 per million killed by current spouses. (Statistics Canada, 2001)
- Most abusive partners present as being non-violent outside of their intimate relationships hence they have the ability to control their behaviour. Assessing men for abuse is difficult as they go to great lengths to conceal their abuse. Because of the impact of abuse, some women appear to be the problem while their partners appear as credible, rational and responsible. It is crucial to understand the impact of violence from the perspective of the woman in order to accurately understand the dynamics and safety concerns of the woman and her children.

## Appendix #2: Abuse in Same-Sex Relationships

While most lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people have healthy, non-violent same-sex relationships, some do experience abuse in their intimate relationships. Abuse in same-sex relationships is often ignored, minimized or misunderstood by families, friends, social service and health care providers, and individuals within the justice system. Providing non-judgement, non-biased support is critical in assisting survivors of abuse in same-sex relationships.

Many families in LGBT communities are often differently constituted than those in traditional, heterosexual society. For example, to many LGBT people, friends are family. As well, because LGBT families are unique they often do not readily fit into the language available to us to describe family relations. Chosen families and those that are not necessarily biologically related are important to recognize and validate.

Like heterosexual families, some parents adopt, some utilize donor insemination, and some have blended families from previous relationships. Many LGBT parents had children in a previous heterosexual relationship and now are parenting their children on their own or with an LGBT partner. Children in LGBT families may have many adults in their lives that participate in parenting and child care. It is important to recognize and validate the family defined roles and identities in LGBT families — for example that a non-birth mom does not necessarily have a secondary or less significant role in the family and in the child’s life than a biological mother.

Children in families that are closeted may not have the language to talk about their parents’ relationship (i.e. they may refer to their parent’s partner as a “roommate” even though the “roommate” may be significantly involved in childrearing). Even in households where there is much openness, children may be reluctant to talk about their parents’ relationship for fear of being ostracized or discriminated against. Children may be afraid of disclosing their parent’s relationship to MCFD child protection workers for fear that they will be removed from their parents’. No matter how safe it is to talk about their families at home, their experiences tell them that it may be a completely different story out in the world at large.

Homophobic and transphobic myths and stereotypes about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and children are pervasive in our society. Below is a list of some of the more common myths that may influence decisions concerning child safety in cases of violence in same-sex relationships.

MYTH	REALITY
Being in an LGBT family is harmful to children.	There is no evidence to show that children of LGBT parents are inherently at risk. What is harmful to children is the exposure to societal discrimination and oppression – such as homophobia, transphobia, and heterosexism.
Children of LGBT parents are not well adjusted and experience more behavioural and psychological problems than do children of heterosexual mothers/parents.	Numerous research studies that have shown that according to standard assessment techniques, adjustment patterns of children of LGBT families fall well within normative range (Patterson, 1996).
Non-biological parents in LGBT relationships are often considered unimportant or of no consequence in the lives of children.	There is no evidence to suggest that children of LGBT step- or blended families are not bonded to all their parents/care givers and grieve the loss of those individuals from their lives. Studies have shown that in families where children were conceived (via donor

	insemination) and born into a lesbian family, lesbian non-biological parents were often significantly more involved in child rearing than were heterosexual biological fathers (Patterson, 1996).
Gay men, lesbians and/or transsexuals sexually abuse children.	The vast majority (85-95%) of child abusers are heterosexual men.
Women do not abuse their lesbian partners.	Violence occurs in some same-sex relationships as it does in some heterosexual relationships.
A man could not possibly be victimized by another man.	Some gay men are the victims of abuse in their relationships.
Violence in same-sex relationships is merely fighting.	Violence in same-sex relationships follows a pattern of coercive and violent behaviours whose intent is to gain and maintain power and control over one's intimate partner.
Violence in same-sex relationships is mutual.	One person is the abuser and holds power and control over the other person. In some same-sex relationships the abused person may act to defend her/himself more often than is noted in heterosexual relationships.

Abuse in same-sex relationships has many similarities to abuse in heterosexual relationships. It consists of the same forms of abuse as in heterosexual relationships, such as physical, emotional/psychological, economic, property destruction, stalking or harassment. As well, there are some unique differences such as: an abusive partner using heterosexist and/or transphobic abusive tactics to control their partner – such as threats to “out” them to their family, friends, community, service providers including child protection workers; as well as insults to one’s sexual and/or gender identity. The abusive tactics in same-sex relationships may increase isolation and create increased barriers to seeking help or in even acknowledging the abuse. The internalization of homophobic, transphobic and heterosexist messages and beliefs in society (internalized oppression) may also make it difficult to talk about one’s sexual/gender identity, relationships as well as the abuse.

LGBT survivors are often victimized on several levels – by their abusive partners, by services and institutions that are supposed to help, and by a lack of positive response from our LGBT communities. For LGBT people of colour, immigrants and Aboriginal people may also experience homophobia and transphobia from within their cultural or community which may cause greater isolation. These contexts of LGBT relationships create additional barriers to leaving in addition to those facing heterosexual survivors of relationship violence.

In British Columbia the adoption legislation recognizes same-sex parents and does not discriminate based on sexual orientation. As well, recent legislative changes mean that in cases where lesbians who have a child together via donor insemination, the non-biological mother is automatically recognized as a legal parent (as is the case with heterosexual couples who have a child via donor insemination) and therefore they are no longer required to adopt the child to be legally recognized as the co-parent. However, judiciary prejudices continue to prevail. It is extremely rare for a court to award visitation to the non-birth parent or non-adoptive parent (Burke, 2000).

**Responding in an Appropriate and Supportive Manner:**

In addition to following the guidelines about violence in relationships, the following points are important:

It is important to be aware of your own stereotypes and ensure these are not influencing your response to an LGBT client. Seek resources, reading material, training and knowledge from other service providers and the LGBT communities for information.

Contact an experienced anti-violence worker preferably someone who has knowledge about same-sex partner abuse.

Do not assume that an abused woman's partner is male; don't assume that a gay man cannot be abused by a male partner.

Upon disclosure show an attitude of acceptance of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity and support them in their acceptance of their identity.

Assess and discuss safety for the abused individual (see appendix referring to safety planning). Due to smallness of LGBT communities, confidentiality is of paramount importance. Consult with the survivor before disclosing any information to other service providers when making a referral to community services.

Assaulted partners may need additional support in order to disclose their sexual orientation/gender identity in order to access shelters, health care, the police and legal system. Discrimination within systems reduces the number of accessible services for LGBT survivors of abuse.

As with violence in heterosexual relationships, do not recommend couples counselling when violence has been disclosed.

(Adapted from Abuse in Lesbian Relationships: Information and Resources by Laurie Chesley, Donna MacAuley, and Janice Ristock, 1998, Health Canada)

## **Appendix #3: Assisting Immigrant and Refugee Women Abused by Their Sponsor**

### **Risk of Deportation**

Immigrant and refugee women who are abused by their sponsor face particular difficulties in accessing personal safety and protection. Women without landed status, i.e. they have been sponsored to come to Canada by a partner/fiancé/spouse under the family class sponsorship or have claimed refugee status as a dependent, are at risk of deportation upon leaving an abusive relationship. For example, by leaving the relationship the abused woman may be in breach of a landing condition that she marry within 90 days, or she may have an inland sponsorship application in progress that is dependent upon establishing that her marriage is genuine, or she may have made a claim for refugee status based on her partner's fear of persecution, or she may be an accompanying dependent under the conditions of the entrepreneur program. In order to leave an abusive relationship, your client may need to apply to change her immigration status.

### **Immigration Information**

Your client can obtain information on immigration matters by using the Citizenship and Immigration Canada Call centres automated telephone service, speaking with a Call Centre agent, or going to the Immigration Canada Web site at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/>

### **Legal Aid**

Your client may require legal advice to apply to change her immigration status or to resolve family law matters such as custody and access. Your client can get legal aid if she is financially eligible and her problem is covered under the legal aid rules. Legal aid is available for some immigration and family law matters, particularly if there is family violence, but in early 2002 the Provincial Government announced plans to reduce the availability of legal aid. The Provincial Government also announced in April 2003 that it would cease providing legal aid funding for immigration matters on March 31, 2004. (Please refer to memorandum of understanding between the Attorney General and Legal Services Society at [http://icw.mcf.gov.bc.ca/manuals/cfd\\_policy/reference/MOUannouncement\\_2004-03-31.pdf](http://icw.mcf.gov.bc.ca/manuals/cfd_policy/reference/MOUannouncement_2004-03-31.pdf)

Your client is financially eligible if her household income and assets are at or below the LSS financial guidelines, which are based on the applicant's monthly income. For information on calculating your client's financial eligibility, visit the Legal Service Society of BC Web site at [http://www.lss.bc.ca/legal\\_aid/finance.asp](http://www.lss.bc.ca/legal_aid/finance.asp) or contact the nearest legal aid office.

### **Employment Authorization**

If your client does not have landed status, she can only obtain employment authorization in certain circumstances. For example, she can apply if she has made a 'humanitarian and compassionate grounds' application, the application has been approved for processing and she has been granted a visa waiver.

### **Education**

If your client does not have landed status, she can only obtain student authorization in certain circumstances. A student authorization is not needed for:

- an English or French language course that is not longer than three months duration in total
- courses that are not academic, professional or vocational in nature
- self-improvement, general-interest courses such as arts and crafts
- courses included in tour packages as a secondary activity for tourists

## **Financial Assistance**

If your client is not landed, she is not eligible for income assistance. She may be able to apply for hardship assistance, but in early 2002 the Provincial Government announced plans to cut this assistance.



## **Appendix #4: Reporting Requirements**

Section 14, subsection (1) of the CFCS Act states:

*A person who has reason to believe that a child needs protection under section 13 must promptly report the matter to a director or a person designated by a director.*

The wording of this section is intended to ensure the safety and well-being of children. However, some professionals from agencies and programs that provide medical assistance, counselling and supportive services advise that mothers, children and youth who require these services are rejecting them due to their fear of being reported to a child protection worker. This includes women who are refusing to stay in transition houses – choosing to risk their safety rather than risk being reported to the ministry.

Because child protection workers are committed to providing services according to the CFCSA's guiding principles in order to assist and support families and children wherever possible, the following reporting guidelines regarding violence against women in relationships have been developed:

- Information regarding children who are exposed to violence against women in relationship situations must be reported if the circumstances fall within section 13 of the CFCSA. i.e., a child in need of protection.
- Situations wherein a child sees or hears violence occurring between their caregivers do not meet the reporting requirements notwithstanding the “likely to be” clause in the absence of other child protection concerns including those outlined in section 13 (1) (e).
- Women with children who show up and/or reside at a transition home do not automatically meet the test to report.

### **Reporting to the Police:**

In all of the above situations, child protection workers will report situations of child physical harm and sexual abuse and neglect to the police in accordance with existing protocols and practice standards.

## Appendix #5: Safety Planning

### A. Immediate Safety Planning

An immediate safety plan should be developed in consultation with at least the mother and should begin by asking if she has a safety plan and the details of it. Most women have developed ways to keep themselves and their children safe, but may not have formalized this plan. Ask the woman what she has done in the past to keep herself and her children safe.

#### **Personalized Safety Plan:**

The following steps represent my plan for increasing my safety and preparing in advance for the possibility for further violence. Although I do not have control over my partner's violence, I do have some choices about how best to get myself and my children to safety.

**Step 1: Safety during a violent incident:** Women cannot always avoid violent incidents. In order to increase safety, battered women may use a variety of strategies.

I can use some or all of the following strategies:

- If I decide to leave, I will. (Practice how to get out safely. What doors, windows, elevators, stairwells or fire escapes would you use?)
- I can keep my purse and car keys ready and place them in order to leave quickly.
- I can tell \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ about the violence and request they call the police if they hear suspicious noises coming from my house.
- I can teach my children how to use the telephone to contact the police and the fire department.
- I will use \_\_\_\_\_ as my code word with my children or my friends so they can call for help.
- If I have to leave my home, I will go. (Decide this even if you don't think there will be a next time.) If I cannot go to the location above, then I can go to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
- I can also teach some of these strategies to some/all of my children.
- When I expect we are going to have an argument, I will try to move to a space that is lowest risk, such as \_\_\_\_\_. (Try to avoid arguments in the bathroom, garage, kitchens, near weapons or in rooms without access to an outside door).
- I will use my judgement and intuition. If the situation is very serious, I can give my partner what he/she wants to calm him/her down. I have to protect myself until I/we are out of danger.

**Step 2: Safety when preparing to leave.** Women who are assaulted frequently leave the residence they share with the violent partner. Leaving must be done with a careful plan in order to increase safety. Violent men often strike back when they believe that a woman is leaving a relationship.

(This safety plan was adapted with permission from Barbara Hart and Jane Stuehling's Safety Plan that was based upon "Personalized Safety Plan", Office of the City Attorney, City of San Diego, California)

I can use some or all of the following safety strategies:

- I will leave money, bus tickets, and an extra set of keys with \_\_\_\_\_ so I can leave quickly.
- I will keep copies of important documents or keys at \_\_\_\_\_.
- I will open a savings account by \_(date)\_\_\_\_\_ to increase my independence.
- Other things I can do to increase my independence include:
- The VAWIR program's hotline number is\_\_\_\_\_. I can seek shelter by calling this hotline.
- I can keep change for phone calls on me at all times. I understand that if I use my telephone credit card, the following month the telephone bill will tell my abusive partner those numbers that I called after I left. To keep my telephone communications confidential, I must either use coins or I might get a friend to permit me to use their telephone credit card for a limited time when I first leave.
- I will check with \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ to see who would be able to let me stay with them or lend me some money.
- I can leave extra clothes with \_\_\_\_\_.
- I will sit down and review my safety plan every \_\_\_\_\_ in order to plan the safest way to leave the residence. (VAWIR advocate or friend) has agreed to help me review this plan.
- I will rehearse my escape plan and, as appropriate, practice it with my children.

**Step 3: Safety in my own residence.** There are many things that a woman can do to increase her safety in her own residence. It may be impossible to do everything at once, but safety measures can be added step by step.

Safety measures I can use include:

- I can change the locks on my doors and windows as soon as possible.
- I can replace wooden doors with steel/metal doors.
- I can install security systems including additional locks, window bars, poles to wedge against doors, and electronic system, etc.
- I can purchase rope ladders to be used for escape from second floor windows.
- I can install smoke detectors and purchase fire extinguishers for each floor in my house/apartment.
- I can install an outside lighting system that lights up when a person is coming close to my house.
- I will teach my children how to use the telephone to make a collect call to me and to \_\_\_\_\_ in the event that my partner takes the children.
- I will tell people who take care of my children which people have permission to pick up my children and that my partner is not permitted to do so. The people I will inform about pick-up permission include: (school), (daycare), (babysitter), (Sunday school teacher), (teacher), (coach) and (others)
- I can inform \_\_\_\_\_ that my partner no longer resides with me and they should call the police if he is observed near my residence.

**Step 4: Safety with a protection order:** Many violent men obey protection orders, but one can never be sure which man will obey and which will violate protection orders. I recognize that I may need to ask the police and the courts to enforce my protection order.

The following are some steps that I can take to help the enforcement of my protection order:

- I will keep my protection order \_\_\_ (location)\_\_\_\_\_. (Always keep it on or near your person. If you change purses, that's the first thing that should go in.)
- I will give my protection order to police departments in the community where I work, in those communities where I usually visit family or friends, and in the community where I live.
- There should be a registry of protection orders that all police departments can call to confirm a protection order. I can check to make sure that my order is in the Protection Order Registry. The telephone number for the Protection Order Registry is \_\_\_\_\_.

- I can call the local police if I am unsure about the previous points or if I have some problem with my protection order.
- I will inform my employer, my minister, my children's school, my closest friend and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that I have a protection order in effect.
- If my partner destroys my protection order, I can call the police and report a violation, contact my attorney, call my advocate, and/or advise the court of the violation.
- If the police do not help, I can contact my advocate or lawyer and will file a complaint with the chief of the police department.
- I can also file a private criminal complaint with the justice of the peace in the jurisdiction where the violation occurred or with crown counsel. I can charge my violent partner with a violation of the protection order and all the crimes that he commits in violating the order. I can call the VAWIR advocate to help me with this.

**Step 5: Safety on the job and public.** Each woman must decide if and when she will tell others that her partner has assaulted her and that she may be at continued risk. Friends, family and co-workers can help to protect women. Each woman should consider carefully which people to invite to help secure her safety.

I might do any or all of the following:

- I can inform by boss, the security supervisor and \_\_\_\_\_ at work of my situation.
- I can ask \_\_\_\_\_ to help screen my telephone calls at work.
- When leaving work, I can \_\_\_\_\_.
- When driving home if problems occur, I can \_\_\_\_\_.
- If I use public transit, I can \_\_\_\_\_.
- I can use different grocery stores and shopping malls to conduct my business and shop at hours that are different than those when residing with my violent partner.
- I can also \_\_\_\_\_.

**Step 6: Safety and drug or alcohol use.** Most people in this culture use alcohol. Many use mood-altering drugs. Much of this use is legal and some is not. The legal outcomes of using illegal drugs can be very hard on a women is/has been assaulted. They may hurt her relationship with her children and put her at a disadvantage in other legal actions with her violent partner. Therefore, woman should carefully consider the potential cost of the use of illegal drugs. But beyond this, the use of any alcohol or other drugs can reduce a woman's awareness and ability to act quickly to protect herself from her violent partner. Furthermore, the use of alcohol or other drugs by the violent partner may give him/her an excuse to use violence. Therefore, in the context of drug or alcohol use, a woman needs to make specific safety plans.

If drug or alcohol use has occurred in my relationship with the violent partner, I can enhance my safety by some or all of the following:

- If I am going to use, I can do so in a safe place and with people who understand the risk of violence and are committed to my safety.
- I can also \_\_\_\_\_.
- If my partner is using, I can \_\_\_\_\_.
- I might also \_\_\_\_\_
- To safeguard my children, I might \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Step 7: Safety and my emotional health.** The experience of being assaulted and verbally degraded by partners is exhausting and emotionally draining. The process of building a new life for myself takes much courage and incredible energy.

To conserve my emotional energy and resources and to avoid hard emotional times, I can do some of the following:

- If I feel down and ready to return to a potentially abusive situation, I can \_\_\_\_\_.
- When I have to communicate with my partner in person or by telephone, I can \_\_\_\_\_.
- I can try to use “I can ...” statements with myself and to be assertive with others.
- I can tell myself “...” Whenever I feel others are trying to control or abuse me.
- I can read to help me feel stronger.
- I can call \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ as other resources to be of support to me.
- Other things I can do to help me feel stronger are \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- I can attend workshops and support groups at the VAWIR program or \_\_\_\_\_, or to gain support and strengthen my relationships with other people.

**Step 8: Items to take when leaving.** When women leave partners, it is important to take certain items with them. Beyond this, women sometimes give an extra copy of papers and an extra set of clothing to a friend just in case they have to leave quickly.

Items with an asterisks on the following list are the most important to take. If there is time, the other items might be taken, or stored outside the home.

These items might best be placed in one location. So that if we have to leave in a hurry, I can grab them quickly.

When I leave, I should take:

- \*Identification for myself
- \*My birth certificate
- \*Social insurance cards
- \*Healthcare cards for self and children
- \*School and vaccination records
- \*Money
- \*Chequebook, ATM (automatic teller machine) card
- \*Credit cards
- \*Keys – house/car/office
- \*Driver’s license and registration
- \*Medications
- Income assistance information
- Work permits
- Passport(s)
- Divorce papers
- Medical records – for all family members
- Lease/rental agreement, house deed, mortgage payment book
- Bank statements and books
- Insurance papers
- Small saleable objects
- Address book
- Pictures
- Jewellery
- Children’s favourite toys and/or blankets
- Items of special sentimental value

### **Telephone numbers I need to know:**

- Police department – at home, school and office
- Transition House
- VAWIR program or counsellor
- Protection Order Registry
- Work number
- Supervisor's home number
- Minister
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **B. On-Going Service Plans That Address Safety Issues**

Well-developed and effective safety plans ideally require collaboration among a wide range of other trained personnel, including social workers or other mental health care providers, transition house staff, victim service workers, police, crown attorneys, and judges.

Service plans and referrals should focus on the safety, stability, and well-being of all victims of VAWIR situations and hold violent perpetrators accountable.

Service planning in child protection typically focuses on providing services to reduce the risk of child maltreatment and to strengthen parenting ability. Service planning in VAWIR-child maltreatment cases also will require focusing actively on the safety of the woman and the responsibility of the perpetrator to stop abusive behaviour in order to keep children safe.

It is important that child protection workers and service providers involved in developing safety plans consider how issues such as language skills, level of income, availability transportation etc. will affect the woman's ability to comply.

Safety planning for the child and their mothers in mind will focus on:

- Securing safe housing in the woman's and child victim's own residence whenever possible or with her family or friends, in subsidized housing, in transitional or permanent housing.
- Providing voluntary advocacy services for abused women within the child protection system.
- Offering support to abused women in a respectful way that does not label them unnecessarily as neglectful.
- Referring women to services that will aid in securing financial and income assistance, and employment services.
- Referring women to voluntary supportive counselling, groups or community-based advocacy services, and to job training, parenting, substance abuse treatment programs.
- Referring women to legal advocacy, family law services for assistance in obtaining protection orders, custody and safe visitation arrangements, child support, and/or divorce.
- Providing transportation to safety resources, including transition houses, stopping the violence counselling programs, specialized victim assistance programs, childcare, court, educational institutions, counselling, and health care services.

- Referring child victims to skilled resources for counselling and treatment services such as children who witness abuse in order to assess and address the consequences of the violence.

VAWIR advocates should be included in developing and implementing the service plans, when possible, to ensure the safety of adult victims and to assist in ensuring the availability of needed services.

**Separate service plans should be developed for adult victims and perpetrators – regardless of their legal status vis-à-vis the child.**

All abused partners and their at-risk or abused children in child protection caseloads should have safety plans that are part of larger service plans. These service plans should be prepared as separate documents to ensure their integrity is not compromised if perpetrators have access to them.

Abusive partners should have a separate service plan.

- As in cases of child maltreatment, accountability is essential. Child protection services must initiate efforts to reach violent perpetrators and hold them accountable. One part of holding perpetrators accountable is to develop separate service plans for them that addresses:
  - cessation of verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse of all family members
  - cessation of interference with their partner's efforts to parent children safely
  - compliance with protection orders and other court-ordered mandate, including those imposed by probation, parole, and perpetrator intervention programs
  - attendance at culturally responsive, credible education and counselling programs for abusive men, as part of their service plans, when such programs exist.

The separate service plans should be in place regardless of whether the adults in the family intend to stay together or separate.

Thoroughly assess the possible harm to a child resulting from being maltreated or from witnessing adult domestic violence and develop service plans to address this harm

- Children who are maltreated or exposed to domestic violence may require services and often may not require removal from the non-abusing parent. Given the varying levels of violence and its impacts, individual assessments should determine the appropriate venue of service. Some services may be outside the child protection system, such as women's transition houses, community agencies or mental health services.
- Visitation arrangements should be consistent with children's treatment needs as well as their safety needs.

Strategies that blame a non-abusive mother for the violence committed by others should be avoided.

- Finding non-abusive mothers responsible for failure to protect in cases of VAWIR situations may result from the system's inability to hold the actual perpetrator of violence accountable.
- When mothers are non-abusing caregivers, reasonable efforts should be made to provide support to them for their own safety and that of their children such as previously mentioned interventions.
- While care must be taken not to blame abused mothers for other's violent behaviour, it is also important not to minimize a woman's violence or neglectful behaviour. Careful assessment and intervention are necessary in these circumstances.

- There may be situations wherein a mother does not abuse her children but is unable to protect them from abuse by the father/partner. This does not mean that the mother condones the abuse or that she wants her children to be abused. These situations will require some kind of ministry protection intervention and may result in the removal of the children from their home. It is important for the child protection response to be coordinated with woman serving agencies so that the mother can perceive the intervention as helpful and that her safety is also important.

Potentially dangerous or inappropriate interventions such as couple counselling, mediation, or family group conferencing in cases of violence against women should be avoided or used with great care.

- Many victims describe fear and safety concerns surrounding the disclosure of information about violence within their relationship and/or child maltreatment in couple counselling sessions where their abusers are present. Since current outcome data on couples counselling in cases of relationship violence show it to be no more effective than gender-specific groups, concerns for safety contraindicate couple or conjoint counselling sessions as a primary or first intervention with a family.
- Many safety concerns have been raised regarding the use of mediation and, by extension, family group conferencing. These include a focus on mutual responsibility and reconciliation that may place adult victims in a position of being held responsible for their partners' criminal behaviour. This caution should also be applied when considering conjoint parenting classes.
- Avoid referring perpetrators to anger management programs that do not address underlying belief systems and attitudes that contribute to VAWIR.
- Visitation arrangements that endanger adult and/or child victims should be avoided. Because adult relationship violence may continue after separations, safe visitation arrangements must be made for both the adult and child victims in a family.

(Adapted from: Effective Intervention In Domestic Violence & Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice – Recommendations from the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges, Family Violence Department – pg 64)

### **C. Safety Planning re: Children's Unsupervised Visitation Arrangements**

#### **Summary of Article:**

Barbara Hart recommends that in cases where there has been spousal or child abuse, there should be safety planning for unsupervised visits to help children manage their fear and anxiety, and to minimize the risk of violence during visitation. Professionals should help children identify safety issues and build problem-solving skills. Safety plans for children should be realistic, simple, and age-appropriate. Possible safety strategies to empower children include:

- (1) to provide information beforehand on how to handle queries about their mother's activities;
- (2) how to avoid situations (place, time, circumstance) of prior violence;
- (3) how to phone home, including making long distance calls or using operator assistance;
- (4) how to obtain emergency assistance, e.g., 911;
- (5) escape logistics;
- (6) how to manage an intoxicated parent; and
- (7) what to do if they are kidnapped.

Safety plans for children should be developed with the non-abusing parent and the child, and should be rehearsed.

("spousal violence in custody and access disputes: recommendation for reform"; p. 60; Nicholas Bala et al; March 1998)



## **Appendix #6: Risk Factors Indicating the Repetition of Relationship Violence**

The Spousal Assault Risk Assessment (SARA) is a clinical checklist of risk factors for spousal assault developed by the British Columbia Institute Against Family Violence. The SARA comprises 20 individual items identified by an extensive review of the empirical literature (Cooper, 1993) and by a review of articles written by clinicians with extensive experience in evaluating men who abuse their partners. It was developed as an assessment guide or checklist (i.e., framework, guideline, aide memoire); a means of ensuring that pertinent information is considered and weighed by evaluators.

The 20 items included in the SARA are:

Offender Criminal History:

- Past assault of family members
- Past assault of strangers or acquaintances
- Past violation of conditional release or community supervision

Offender Psychosocial Adjustment

- Recent relationship problems
- Recent employment problems
- Victim of and/or witness to family violence as a child or adolescent
- Recent substance abuse/dependence
- Recent suicidal or homicidal ideation/intent
- Recent psychotic and/or manic symptoms
- Personality disorder with anger, impulsiveness, or behavioural instability

Offender Spousal Assault History

- Past physical assault
- Past sexual assault/sexual jealousy
- Past use of weapons and/or credible threats of death
- Recent escalation in frequency or severity of assault
- Past violation of “no contact” orders
- Extreme minimization or denial of spousal assault history
- Attitudes that support or condone spousal assault

Offender Alleged (Current) Offence

- Severe and/or sexual assault
- Use of weapons and/or credible threats of death
- Violation of “no contact” order

For more information regarding this document, please contact:

The British Columbia Institute Against Family Violence

Suite 551 – 409 Granville Street,

Vancouver, B.C., V6C 1T2 Phone: (604) 669-7055; Fax: (604) 669-7054

**Appendix # 7– A List of Contacts for: Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs, Community Based Victim Service Programs**  
**B: List of Contacts for: Children Who Witness Abuse Programs**  
**C: List of Contacts for: Transition Houses**

**A: Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs:**

There are 80 Stopping the Violence Counselling programs in B.C. funded by the Ministry of Community, aboriginal and Women's Services. These programs provide essential counselling and support (including information, referrals and in some cases, system liaison services) for women who have experienced sexual violence in relationships, and/or childhood abuse.

**Community Based Victim Assistance Programs:**

There are approximately 60 Community Based Victim Assistance Programs in B.C. funded by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. These programs provide crucial emotional support, information, referrals, justice system support and liaison service for victims of sexual assault, violence against women in relationships and violence against children and youth. Some of these programs provide support to victims of violence who have specific needs, such as adult male survivors and survivors from Aboriginal and multicultural communities.

**North Vancouver Island**

**STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLING PROGRAMS**

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Comox Valley Transition Society  
Courtenay                      Tel: 250-897-0511                      Fax: 250-897-0595

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
North Island Crisis & Counselling Centre Society  
Port Hardy                      Tel: 250-949-8333                      Fax: 250-949-8344

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
North Island Survivors Healing Society  
Campbell River Tel: 250-287-3325                      Fax: 250-287-3397

STV Counselling – North Island  
North Island Women's Services Society  
Courtenay                      Tel: 250-338-1133                      Fax: 250-334-9251

STV Counselling Program  
Port Alberni Women's Resources Society  
Port Alberni                      Tel: 250-724-7111                      Fax: 250-724-7113

STV - Powell River Women's Outreach Centre  
Powell River & Region Transition House Society  
Powell River                      Tel: 604-485-6965                      Fax: 604- 485-6168

STV Counselling Program  
Westcoast Women's Resources Society  
Ucluelet                      Tel: 250-726-2343                      Fax: 250-726-2353

## **COMMUNITY BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Community Based Victim Service Program  
Campbell River Family Services Society  
Campbell River Tel: 250-287-2421 Fax: 250-287-4268

Community Based Victim Services Program  
Comox Valley Family Services Association  
Courtenay Tel: 250-338-7575 Fax: 250-338-2343

'Namgis Health Centre Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
'Namgis First Nation, Namgis Health Centre  
Alert Bay Tel: 250-974-5556 Fax: 250-974-5900

Community Based Victim Services  
North Island Women's Services Society  
Courtenay Tel: 250-338-1133 Fax: 250-334-9251

Community Based Victim Service Program  
Port Alberni Women's Resource Centre  
Port Alberni Tel: 250-724-7111

Specialized Victim Support Services  
Powell River Community Services Association  
Powell River Tel: 604-485-2620 Fax: Tel: 604-485-5075

### **South Vancouver Island**

## **STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLING PROGRAMS**

STV Counselling Program - Cowichan WAVAW  
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society  
Duncan Tel: 250-748-7000 Fax: 250-748-9364

STV Counselling Program  
Haven: A Society for Women and Children  
Nanaimo Tel: 250-754-0764 Fax: 250-741-0540

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Pacific Centre Family Services Association  
Victoria Tel: 250-478-8357 Fax: 250-478-3699

Historical Abuse Program - STV Counselling Program  
Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre  
Victoria Tel: 250-383-5545 Fax: 250-383-6112

STV Counselling Program  
Victoria Women's Transition House Society  
Victoria Tel: 250-592-2927 Fax: 250-592-9279

## **COMMUNITY BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Specialized Victim Services  
BC Society for Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse  
Victoria Tel: 250-381-0493 Fax: 250-381-3679

Victim Service Program  
Child Abuse Prevention & Counselling Society of Greater Victoria  
Victoria Tel: 250-385-6111 Fax: 250-386-8111

Community Based Victim Services Program  
Cowichan Women Against Violence Society  
Duncan Tel: 250-748-7000 Fax: 250-748-9364

Victim Service Program  
Haven: A Society for Women and Children  
Nanaimo Tel: 250-754-0764 Fax: 250-741-0540

Community Based Victim Services  
Haven: A Society for Women and Children  
Parksville Tel: 250-754-0764 Fax: 250-741-0540

Mens Wellness Group  
Tillicum Haus Society  
Nanaimo Tel: 250-753-6578 Fax: 250-754-1390

Sexual Violence Victim Services  
Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre  
Victoria Tel: 250-383-5545 Fax: 250-383-6112

Spousal Assault Victim Support Program  
Victoria Women's Transition House  
Victoria Tel: 250-356-1201 Fax: 250-387-2828

### **Lower Mainland**

#### **STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLING PROGRAMS**

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Battered Women's Support Services  
Vancouver Tel: 604-687-1868 Fax: 604-687-1864

Stopping Violence Against Women Programs  
Burnaby Family Life Institute  
Burnaby Tel: 604-659-2218 Fax: 604-299-9731

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Chimo Crisis Services  
Richmond Tel: 604-279-7077 Fax: 604-279-7075

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre  
Vancouver Tel: 604-681-8480 Fax: 604-681-8470

STV - Relationship Safety Project  
Family Services of Greater Vancouver  
New Westminster Tel: 604-525-9144 Fax: 604-524-9455

Adult Services Program - STV  
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - VISAC

Vancouver Tel: 604-874-2938 Fax: 604-874-9898

STV Counselling Program - VISAC Richmond  
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - VISAC  
Richmond Tel: 604-244-9319 Fax: 604-244-9373

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Family Services of the North Shore  
North Vancouver Tel: 604-988-5281 Fax: 604-926-7945

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
M.O.S.A.I.C.  
Vancouver Tel: 604-254-9626 Fax: 604-254-3932

STV Counselling Program  
Sea To Sky Community Services  
Squamish Tel: 604-892-5796 Fax: 604-892-2267

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Sunshine Coast Community Services Society  
Sechelt Tel: 604 885-5881 Fax: 604 885-9493

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society  
Burnaby Tel: 604-436-1025 Fax: 604-436-3267

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre (WAVAW/RCC)  
Vancouver Tel: 604-255-6228 Fax: 604-255-3579

## **COMMUNITY BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Family & Sexual Violence Victim Support Services  
ACTION: Alcohol & Drug Counselling Society  
Sechelt Tel: 604 885-5680 Fax: 604-885-5863

Specialized Victim Service  
Battered Women's Support Services  
Vancouver Tel: 604-687-1868 Fax: 604-687-1864

Specialized Victim Services  
BC Society for Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse  
Vancouver Tel: 604-682-6482 Fax : 604-684-8883

Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
Cameray Centre  
Burnaby Tel: 604-612-5296 Fax: 604-520-6100

Community Based Victim Services  
Chinese Community Policing Centre  
Vancouver Tel: 604-688-5030 Fax: 604-688-5070

Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
Downtown Eastside Women's Centre  
Vancouver Tel: 604-681-8480 Fax: 604-681-8470

Victim Support Services - VISAC  
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - VISAC  
Vancouver Tel: 604-874-2938 Fax: 604-874-9898

MOSAIC Multicultural Victim Support Program  
M.O.S.A.I.C.  
Vancouver Tel: 604-254-9626 Fax: 604-254-3932

Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services Society  
Burnaby Tel: 604-436-1025 Fax: 604-436-3267

Specialized Victim Services  
Vancouver Police & Native Liaison Society  
Vancouver Tel: 604-687-8411 Fax: 604-682-2967

Specialized Victim Services  
Women Against Violence Against Women Rape Crisis Centre (WAVAW/RCC)  
Vancouver Tel: 604-255-6228 Fax: 604-255-3579

### **Fraser Valley**

#### **STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLING PROGRAMS**

ESCAP STV Counselling Program  
Abbotsford Community Services  
Abbotsford Tel: 604 859-7681 Fax: 604-859-6334

STV Counselling Program  
Cythera Transition House Society  
Maple Ridge Tel: 604 467-9939 Fax: 604-467-5158

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Deltassist Community Services Society  
Delta Tel: 604-594-3455 Fax: 604-594-3496

STV - Quest Counselling Services for Women  
Ishtar Transition House Society  
Langley Tel: 604-534-0708 Fax: 604-534-1929

Women's Place STV Counselling Program  
South Fraser Women's Services Society  
Surrey Tel: 604-536-9611 Fax: 604-536-6362

STV Multicultural Program  
Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society  
Surrey Tel: 604-597-0205 Fax: 604-597-4299

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Surrey Women's Centre Society  
Surrey Tel: 604-589-8303 Fax: 604-589-2812

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program - Path Centre  
Tri-City Women's Resource Society

Burnaby Tel: 604-420-2002 Fax: 604-420-2021

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Ann Davis Transition Society  
Chilliwack Tel: 604-792-2760 Fax: 604-792-2875

Abbotsford Women's Support Services  
Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley  
Abbotsford Tel: 604-855-3363 Fax: 604-855-9583

Mission Women's Support Services  
Women's Resource Society of the Fraser Valley  
Mission Tel: 604-820-8455 Fax: 604-820-8495

### **COMMUNITY BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Abbotsford Specialized Victim Services &  
Specialized Victim/Witness Services: Indo Canadian Program  
Abbotsford Community Services  
Abbotsford Tel: 604-859-7681 Fax: 604-859-7609

Community Based Victim Services  
Abbotsford Community Services  
Mission Tel: 604-859-7681 Fax: 604-859-7609

Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
Chilliwack Community Services  
Chilliwack Tel: 604-792-4267 Fax: 604-792-6575

Community Based Victim Service Program  
Family Services of Greater Vancouver - VISAC  
Burnaby /New Westminster Tel: 604-874-2938 Fax: 604-874-9898

Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
Maple Ridge / Pitt Meadows Community Services  
Maple Ridge Tel: 604-467-6911 Fax: 604-463-2988

Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
Surrey Women's Centre Society  
Surrey Tel: 604-583-1295 Fax: 604-589-2812

SVAP Counselling Program  
Tri-City Women's Resource Society  
Port Coquitlam Tel: 604-941-7111 Fax: 604-941-7138

Community Based Victim Service Program  
Ishtar Transition House Society  
Langley Tel: 604-534-0708 Fax: 604-534-1929

### **Interior**

### **STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLING PROGRAMS**

STV Counselling Program

100 Mile House Women's Centre Society  
100 Mile House Tel: 250-395-4093 Fax: 250-395-4012

STV Counselling Program  
Community Connections Revelstoke Society  
Revelstoke Tel: 250-837-2920 Fax: 250-837-2909

STV Counselling Program  
Kamloops Sexual Assault Counselling Centre  
Kamloops Tel: 250-372-0179 Fax: 250-372-2107

CHOICES - STV Counselling Program  
Lillooet Friendship Centre Society  
Lillooet Tel: 250-256-4146 Fax: 250-256-7928

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Logan Lake Health Centre  
Logan Lake Tel: 250-523-9414 Fax: 250-523-6869

Nicola Family Therapy, STV Counselling Program  
Nicola Valley Community Human Services Association  
Merritt Tel: 250-378-9222 Fax: 250-378-9299

STV Program  
Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Society  
Salmon Arm Tel: 250-832-9700 Fax: 250-832-9516

STV Counselling Program  
Wells Grey Community Resources Society  
Clearwater Tel: 250-674-2600 Fax: 250-674-2676

### **COMMUNITY BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Victim Assistance Program  
Lillooet Friendship Centre Society  
Lillooet Tel: 250-256-4146 Fax: 250-256-7928

Community Based Victim Service Program  
Kamloops Sexual Assault Counselling Centre Society  
Kamloops Tel: 250-372-0179 Fax: 250-372-2107

Community Based Victim Service Program  
Shuswap Area Family Emergency (SAFE) Society  
Salmon Arm Tel: 250-832-9700 Fax: 250-832-9516

### **Okanagan**

### **STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLING PROGRAMS**

STV Counselling Program  
Desert Sun Counselling and Resource Society  
Oliver Tel: 250-498-2538 Fax: 250-498-6088



Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Family Resource Centre for the North Okanagan  
Vernon Tel: 250-545-3390 Fax: 250-549-1548

STV Counselling Program  
Interior Health Authority/Enderby Community Health  
Enderby Tel: 250-838-6420 Fax: 250-838-6005

STV Counselling Program  
Kelowna Family Centre  
Kelowna Tel: 250-860-3181 Fax: 250-860-3188

LSCSS Stopping the Violence Program  
Lower Similkameen Community Services Society  
Keremeos Tel: 250-499-2352 Fax: 250-499-2333

STV Women's Counselling Program  
Princeton General Hospital (The South Okanagan Similkameen Health Board)  
Princeton Tel: 250-295-4453 Fax: 250-295-3344

STV Women's Counselling Program  
South Okanagan Victim Assistance Society  
Penticton Tel: 250-493-5355 Fax: 250-493-2241

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Vernon Women's Transition House Society  
Vernon Tel: 250-558-0334 Fax: 250-542-3224

### **COMMUNITY BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Community Based Victim Service Program  
Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society  
Kelowna Tel: 250-763-4613 Fax: 250-763-4272

Community Based Victim Service Program  
South Okanagan Victim Assistance Society  
Penticton Tel: 250-493-0800 Fax: 250-493-2241

Spousal Assault Victim Support Program  
Vernon Women's Transition House Society  
Vernon Tel: 250-542-1122 Fax: 250-549-3347

### **East Kootenays**

### **STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLING PROGRAMS**

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Creston & District Community Resource Centre  
Creston Tel: 250-428-5547 Fax: 250-428-5175

STV Counselling Program - Women in Crises  
Family Resource Centre of Invermere  
Invermere Tel: 250-342-6765 Fax: 250-342-3850

STV Counselling Program  
Fernie Women's Resource & Drop-In Centre  
Fernie Tel: 250-423-4687 Fax: 250-423-3633

Abuse Recovery Program - Stopping the Violence Program  
Golden Family Centre Society  
Golden Tel: 250-344-2000 Fax: 250-344-5225

Stopping the Violence, Women's Counselling Program  
Summit Community Services Society  
Kimberley Tel: 250-427-2449 Fax: 250-427-2403

### **COMMUNITY BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Community Based Victim Services Program  
Summit Community Services Society  
Cranbrook Tel: 250-489-3114 Fax: 250-489-3151

### **West Kootenays**

### **STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLING PROGRAMS**

STV Counselling Program  
Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services  
Nakusp Tel: 250-265-3674 Fax: 250-265-3855

STV Counselling Program  
Boundary Family & Individual Services Society  
Grand Forks Tel: 250-442-5355 Fax: 250-442-3588

STV Counselling Program  
Nelson Community Services Centre Society  
Nelson Tel: 250-352-3504 Fax: 250-352-3750

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society  
Kaslo Tel: 250-353-7691 Fax: 250-353-7694

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Trail Family & Individual Resource Centre Society  
Trail Tel: 250-364-2326 Fax: 250-364-1255

### **COMMUNITY BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Kaslo and Area Community Based Victim Services  
North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society  
Kaslo Tel: 250-353-7691 Fax: 250-352-7694

The Advocacy Centre Victim Services  
The Advocacy Centre / Nelson District Community Resources Society  
Nelson Tel: 250-352-5777 Fax: 250-352-5723

Victim Service Program  
Trail Family & Individual Resource Centre  
Trail Tel: 250-364-2326 Fax: 250-364-1255

### **North West**

#### **STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLING PROGRAMS**

Women's Counselling Program  
Bella Coola Community Support Society  
Bella Coola Tel: 250-799-5916 Fax: 250-799-5791

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Houston Health Centre  
Houston Tel: 250-845-7379 Fax: 250-845-7336

Stopping Violence Against Women Program  
Ksan House Society  
Terrace Tel: 250-635-1591 Fax: 250-635-2315

Stopping the Violence Counselling  
Northern Society for Domestic Peace  
Smithers Tel: 250 847-9000 Fax: 250 847-8911

Women's Counselling Program - STV (North)  
Queen Charlotte Islands Women's Society  
Masset Tel: 250-626-5200 Fax: 250-626-5238

Women's Counselling Program - STV (South)  
Queen Charlotte Islands Women's Society  
Queen Charlotte City Tel: 250-559-8828 Fax: 250-559-8828

#### **COMMUNITY BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
Bella Coola Community Support Society  
Bella Coola Tel: 250-799-5916 Fax: 250-799-5791

Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
Gitxsan Treaty Society  
Hazelton Tel: 250-842-5165 Fax: 250-849-5551

Terrace Sexual Assault Centre / Specialized Victim Services  
Ksan House Society, Terrace Sexual Assault Centre  
Terrace Tel: 250-635-2373 Fax: 250-635-2315

Specialized Victim Assistance - VACB  
Northern Society for Domestic Peace  
Smithers Tel: 250 847-9000 Fax: 250 847-8911

Community Based Victim Service Program  
Prince Rupert Community Enrichment Society  
Prince Rupert Tel: 250-627-7166

Victim Assistance Program - North  
Queen Charlotte Islands Women's Society  
Masset Tel: 250-626-5101 Fax: 250-626-5238

Victim Assistance Program - South  
Queen Charlotte Islands Women's Society  
Queen Charlotte City Tel: 250-559-8843 Fax: 250-559-8873

Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
Stuart Lake Community Services Society  
Fort St. James Tel: 250-996-7782 Fax: 250-996-0039

Victim Service Program  
Three Sisters Haven Society  
Dease Lake Tel: 250-771-5575 Fax: 250-771-5579

### **North Central**

#### **STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLING PROGRAMS**

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Omineca Safe Home Society  
Vanderhoof Tel: 250-567-9959 Fax: 250-567-9523

STV Counselling Program  
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society  
Prince George Tel: 250-563-1113 Fax: 250-563-8765

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society  
Burns Lake Tel: 250-692-7559 Fax: 250-692-7566

STV Counselling Program  
Prince George Sexual Assault Centre  
Prince George Tel: 250-564-8302 Fax: 250-564-8303

Women Against Violence (STV)  
Quesnel Women's Resource Centre  
Quesnel Tel: 250-992-8472 Fax: 250-992-6160

#### **COMMUNITY BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
Canadian Mental Health Association- Family & Community Services  
Williams Lake Tel: 250-398-8220 Fax: 250-398-8250

Specialized Victim Services  
Cariboo Tribal Council  
Williams Lake Tel: 250 392-7361 Fax: 250-392-6158

Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society  
Prince George Tel: 250-563-1113 Fax: 250-563-8765

Community Based Victim Services  
Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society  
Quesnel Tel: 250-563-1113 Fax: 250-563-8765

SATS - Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
Prince George Native Friendship Centre  
Prince George Tel: 250 564-4324 Fax: 250 563-0924

### **North East**

#### **STOPPING THE VIOLENCE COUNSELLING PROGRAMS**

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Chetwynd Women's Resource Society  
Chetwynd Tel: 250-788-3793 Fax: 250-788-3726

Fort Nelson Community Counselling Services  
Fort Nelson/Liard Community Council / Fort Nelson General Hospital Society  
Fort Nelson Tel: 250-774-8105 Fax: 250-774-8106

Choices for Women (STV Program)  
North Peace Community Resources Society  
Fort St. John Tel: 250-785-6021 Fax: 250-785-4659

Stopping the Violence Counselling Program  
Robson Valley Home Support Society  
McBride Tel: 250-569-2266 Fax: 250-569-2200

STV Counselling Program  
South Peace Community Resources Society  
Dawson Creek Tel: 250-782-9174 Fax: 250-782-4167

STV Counselling Program  
Tumbler Ridge Counselling Services  
Tumbler Ridge Tel: 250-242-5505 Fax: 250-788-2832

#### **COMMUNITY BASED VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

Specialized Victim Assistance Program  
North Peace Community Resources Society  
Fort St. John Tel: 250 -785-6021 Fax: 250-785-4659

Specialized Victim Services  
South Peace Community Resources Society  
Dawson Creek Tel: 250-782-9174 Fax: 250-782-4167

### **B: Children Who Witness Abuse Programs ( BC/ Yukon Society of Transition Houses)**

The BC Yukon Society of Transition Houses is a community based umbrella organization representing 95 shelters for abused women and their children. The shelters include transition houses, safe homes networks and second stage housing, who directly serve the needs of abused women and their children. They shelter, counsel and support the victims of violence.

Also coming under the Society's umbrella are 56 Children Who Witness Abuse Counselling programs.

Children Who Witness Abuse program is a psycho-educational initiative aimed at ultimately interrupting the cycle of violence against women and children. It involves community based support programs for children 3-18, information sharing and support to the mothers and school prevention activities. For more information on the programs you can also contact the BC Yukon Society of Transition Houses at Tel: 604-669-6943

(TH) - Transition House

**Vancouver Island-Powell River**

1. **Campbell River Family Services Society** (TH)  
Campbell River  
Phone: (250) 287-2421
2. **Comox Valley Transition Society** (TH)  
Courtenay  
Crisis: (250) 338-1227
3. **Cowichan Women Against Violence**  
Duncan  
Phone: (250) 748-7251
4. **District 69 Family Resource Association**  
Qualicum Beach  
(250) 752-6766 (Phone)
5. **Haven : A Society for Women and Children** (TH)  
Nanaimo  
Phone: (250) 754-0764
6. **Port Alberni Women's Resources Society**  
Port Alberni  
Phone: (250) 724-7111
7. **Powell River & Region Transition House Society - Outreach Program** (TH)  
Powell River  
Phone: (604) 485-6968
8. **Victoria Women's Transition House** (TH)  
Victoria  
Phone: (250) 592-2927 Ext. 11
9. **West Coast Women's Resource Society** (TH)  
Ucluelet  
Phone: (250) 726-2343 or (250) 726-7711 Youth Center

## Lower Mainland

1. **Atira Women's Resource Society** (TH)  
White Rock  
Phone: (604) 531-9100
2. **Family Services of Greater Vancouver**  
Vancouver  
Phone: (604) 874-2938
3. **Fraser Side Community Services Society** (TH)  
New Westminster  
Phone: (604) 522-3722
4. **Howe Sound Women's Centre**  
Squamish  
Phone: (604) 892-5748
5. **Multicultural Family Services**  
Burnaby  
Phone: (604) 436-1025
6. **Munroe House** (Second Stage)  
Vancouver  
Phone: (604) 734-5722
7. **Chimo Crisis Services** (TH)  
Richmond  
Phone: (604) 279-7077
8. **Path Counselling Centre**  
Burnaby,  
Phone: (604) 420-2002
9. **Sunshine Coast Community Services**  
Sechelt  
Phone: (604) 885-5128 (office)

## Fraser Valley

1. **Abbotsford Women's Support Services**  
Mission  
Phone: (604) 855-3363
2. **Cythera Counselling Centre** (TH)  
Maple Ridge  
Phone: (604) 467-9939 extension 25
3. **OPTIONS: Services to Community Society** (TH)  
Surrey  
Phone: (604) 951-0688

4. **Hope and Area Transition Society (TH)**  
Hope  
Phone: (604) 869-5191
5. **Ishtar Transition Housing Society (TH)**  
Langley  
Phone: (604) 534-0708
6. **Mission Women's Support Services (TH)**  
Mission  
Phone: (604) 820-8455
7. **OPTIONS: Services to Communities Society (TH)**  
Surrey  
Phone: (604) 572-7411
8. **Ann Davis Transition Society (TH)**  
Chilliwack  
Phone: (604) 792-2760

<b>Kootenays</b>
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1. **Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services (Safe Home)**  
Nakusp  
Phone: (250) 265-3674
2. **Boundary Family & Individual Services Society**  
Grand Forks  
Phone: (250) 442-5355
3. **West Boundary Program**  
Address , Phone and Fax  
Same as Boundary Family and Individual Services Society (see above)
4. **Castlegar & District Community Services (Safe Home)**  
Castlegar  
Phone: (250) 365-2104
5. **Invermere Family Resource Centre (Safe Home)**  
Invermere  
Phone: (250) 342-6765
6. **Golden Family Centre**  
Golden  
Phone: (250) 344-2000
7. **Kootenay Haven Transition House (TH)**  
Cranbrook  
Phone: (250) 426-4887
8. **Nelson Community Services**  
Nelson  
Phone: (250) 352-3504



9. **North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society** (Safe Home)  
Kaslo  
Phone: (250) 353-7691
10. **Salmo Community Services** (Safe Home)  
Salmo  
Phone: (250) 357-2277
11. **Trail Family & Individual Resource Society**  
Trail  
Phone: (250) 364-2326

<b>Okanagan</b>
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1. **Central Okanagan Emergency Shelter Society** (TH)  
Kelowna  
Phone: (250) 763-1040
2. **Community Connections**  
Revelstoke  
Phone: (250) 837-2920
3. **Kamloops Community YMCA**  
**- YWCA Women's Emergency Shelter** (TH)  
Kamloops  
Phone: (250) 374-2111
4. **Shuswap Family Emergency Society** (TH)  
Salmon Arm  
Phone: (250) 832-4474
5. **South Okanagan Women in Need** (TH)  
Penticton  
Phone: (250) 493-4366
6. **Vernon Women's Transition House** (TH)  
Vernon  
Phone: (250) 542-1122

<b>Cariboo</b>
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1. **Amata Transition House** (TH)  
Quesnel  
Phone: (250) 992-7321
2. **Cariboo Friendship Society** (TH)  
Williams Lake  
Phone: (250) 398-7005
3. **Nechako Valley Community Services**  
Vanderhoof  
Phone: (250) 567-9205

4. **Phoenix Transition Society** (TH)  
Prince George  
Phone: (250) 563-7315
5. **Snxlhh Transition House** (TH)  
Bella Coola  
Phone: (250) 799-0050

<b>North</b>
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1. **Chetwynd Women's Resource Society**  
Chetwynd  
Phone: (250) 788-3793
2. **Fort Nelson Women's Resource Society**  
Fort Nelson  
Phone: (250) 774-3065
3. **Kitimat Home Support**  
Kitimat  
Phone: (250) 632-2715
4. **Mackenzie Counselling Services** (Safe Home)  
Mackenzie  
Phone: (250) 997-6595
5. **North Peace Community Resources** Meaope House (TH)  
Fort St. John  
Phone: (250) 785-6021
6. **Northern Society for Domestic Peace** (TH)  
Smithers  
Phone: (250) 847-9000
7. **Prince Rupert Community Enrichment Society**  
Prince Rupert  
Phone: (250) 627-7166
8. **South Peace Community Resources Society** (TH)  
Dawson Creek  
Phone: (250) 782-9176

**APPENDIX -C: List of Transition Houses**

(TH) - Transition House  
(Second Stage)  
(Safe Home)  
Other services

**Vancouver Island - Powell River**

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**Ann Elmore Transition House, C River & N.I. Trans. Society (TH)**

Campbell River  
(250) 287-7384 (office)

**Comox Valley Transition Society (TH)**

Courtenay  
(250) 897-0511 (phone)

**District 69 Society of Organized Services (Safe Home)**

Parksville  
(250) 248-2093 (phone/crisis)

**Grace House (TH)**

Powell River  
(604) 485-4554 (office)

**Gulf Island Women's Resource Network (TH)**

Saltspring Island  
(250) 537-9194 (office)

**Haven: A Society for Women and Children (TH)**

Nanaimo  
(250) 756-2452 (office)

**Hill House Transition House (TH)**

Victoria  
(250) 479-3963 (office)

**North Island Crisis & Counselling Centre (Safe Home)**

Port Hardy  
(250) 949-8333 (office)

**Port Alberni Transition House (TH)**

Port Alberni  
(250) 724-2223 (office)

**Somenos Transition House (TH)**

Duncan  
(250) 748-8544, 748-7000 (office)

**Sooke Transition House Society (TH)**

Sooke  
(250) 642-2591 (office)

**Victoria Women's Transition House (TH)**

Victoria  
(250) 380-7527 (office)

**Campbell River Family Services Society**

Campbell River  
(250) 287-2421 (office)

**Cowichan Lake Community Services Society (TH)**

Lake Cowichan  
(250) 749-6822 (office)

**District 69 Family Resource Association**

Qualicum Beach  
(250) 752-6766 (office)

**North Island Community Services**

Port McNeill  
(250) 956-3134 (office)

**Margaret Laurence House (Second Stage)**

Victoria  
(250) 995-0058 (office)

**Victoria Second Stage Program (Second Stage)**

Victoria  
(250) 384-8058 Ext. 209 (business)

**Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre**

Victoria  
(250) 383-5545 (office)

**West Coast Transition House (TH)**

Ucluelet  
(250) 726-2020 (office/crisis)

**Lower Mainland**

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**Coquitlam Transition House (TH)**

Port Coquitlam  
(604) 464-2020 (office)

**Helping Spirit Lodge (TH)**

Vancouver  
(604) 872-6649 (office)

**Marguerite Dixon Transition House (TH)**

Burnaby  
(604) 298-2549 (office)

**Nova Transition House (TH)**

Richmond  
(604) 279-7077 (office)

**Pearl's Place Transition House (TH)**

Squamish  
(604) 892-9654 (office)

**Powell Place (TH)**

Vancouver  
(604) 606-0402 (business)

**SAGE Transition House (TH)**

North Vancouver  
(604) 987-1773 (office)

**Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter (TH)**

Vancouver  
(604) 872-8212 (office)

**Atira Women's Resource Society (TH)**

White Rock  
(604) 531-9151 (Durrant House phone/fax)

**BC Housing**

Burnaby  
(604) 439-4729 (fax)

**Fraserside Community Services Society (TH)**

New Westminster  
(604) 522-3722 (office)

**Monarch Place (TH)**

New Westminster  
(604) 521-1888 (phone & crisis)

**Munroe House (Second Stage)  
(10-C con'd)**

**Vancouver**  
(604) 734-5722 (office)

**Peggy's Place (TH)**

Vancouver  
(604) 430-6644 (office)

**(Second Stage)**

**Margarete Dixon Transition Society**

Burnaby  
(604) 298-6046 (phone)

**Thyme Second Stage House Program (Second Stage)**

Sechelt  
(604) 885-4241 (office)

**Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural  
Family Support Services Society**

Burnaby  
(604) 436-1025 (office)

**Yew Transition House (TH)**

Sechelt  
(604) 885-5128 (office)

**Fraser Valley**

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**Abbotsford/Matsqui Transition House (TH)**

Mission  
(604) 852-6008 (office)

**Cythera House (TH)**

Maple Ridge  
(604) 467-9939 (office)

**Evergreen Transition House (TH)**

Surrey  
(604) 596-4321 (office)

**Ishtar Transition House (TH)**

Langley  
(604) 530-9442 (House phone)

**Jean Scott Transition House (TH)**

Hope  
(604) 869-5191 (office)

**Libra Transition House (TH)**

Aldergrove  
(604) 857-0091 (office/fax)

**Mission Transition House (TH)**

Mission  
(604) 826-7800 (office)

**Virginia Sam Transition House (TH)**

Surrey  
(604) 596-4321 (office)

**Xolhemet House (TH)**

Chilliwack  
(604) 824-0939 (office)

**Ann Davis Transition House (TH)**

Chilliwack  
(604) 792-2760 (office)

## **Kootenays**

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**Aimee Beaulieu Transition House (TH)**

Nelson  
(250) 352-3504 (Community Services)

**Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services (Safe Home)**

Nakusp  
(250) 265-3674 (office)

**Boundary Women's Coalition (TH)**

Grand Forks  
(250) 442-3131 (office)

**Castlegar and District Community Services (Safe Home)**

Castlegar  
(250) 365-2104 (office)

**Elk Valley Safe Homes Program (Safe Home)**

Elkford  
(250) 865-2031 (office)

**Golden Safe Homes (Safe Home)**

Golden  
(250) 344-5317 (office)

**Invermere Family Resource Centre-Windermere Valley Safe Homes Invermere**

(250) 342-6765 (office) (Safe Home)

**Kootenay Haven (TH)**

Cranbrook  
(250) 426-4887 (office)

**North Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (Safe Home)**

Kaslo  
(250) 353-7691 (office)

**Safe Homes-Irvine House (Safe Home)**

Creston  
(250) 428-4698 (office)

**Salmo Community Resources (Safe Home)**

Salmo  
(250) 357-2277 (office)

**WINS Transition House (TH)**

Trail  
(250) 364-1543 (office)

**Boundary Family and Individual Services Society**

Grand Forks  
(250) 442-2267 (office)

**Community Resource Centre**

Creston

(250) 428-5547 (office)

**Okanagan**

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**Central Okanagan Emergency Shelter Society (TH)**

Kelowna

(250) 763-1040 (office)

**Cindy Parolin Safe Homes Program of Princeton (Safe Home)**

Princeton

(250) 295-0268 (office)

**Forsythe House, Revelstoke Women's Shelter Society (TH)**

Revelstoke

(250) 837-4382 (office)

**Hans Knakst Tsitxw (TH)**

Lytton

(250) 455-2284 (office)

**Salmon Arm Women's Emergency Shelter (TH)**

Salmon Arm

(250) 832-9616 (office)

**South Okanagan Women In Need (TH)**

Penticton

(250) 493-7233 (office)

**Syemyim Transition House (TH)**

Merritt

(250) 378-0881 (office)

**Vernon Women's Transition House (TH)**

Vernon

(250) 542-1122 (office)

**Y Women's Emergency Shelter (TH)**

Kamloops

(250) 374-6162 (office)

**Nicola Family Therapy**

Merritt

(250) 378-9222 (office)

**Cariboo**

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**100 Mile House and District Women's Centre Society (Safe Home)**

100 Mile House

(250) 395-4093 (office)



**Amata Transition House (TH)**

Quesnel  
(250) 992-7321 (office)

**Chiwid Transition House (TH)**

Williams Lake  
(250) 398-6831 (society)

**Omineca Transition House (TH)**

Vanderhoof  
(250) 567-9959 (office)

**Phoenix Transition House (TH)**

Prince George  
(250) 563-7305 (office)

**Prince George & District Elizabeth Fry Society (TH)**

Prince George  
(250) 562-5868 (office)

**Robson Valley Safe Homes Program (Safe Home)**

**Robson Valley Home Support Society**

McBride  
(250) 569-2266 (office)

**SNXLHH Transition Society (TH)**

Bella Coola  
(250) 799-0070 (office)

**(10-C con'd)**

**Bella Coola Community Support Society**

Bella Coola  
(250) 799-5588 (office)

**Nechako Valley Community Services**

Vanderhoof  
(250) 567-9205 (office)

**Reseau-Femmes Colombie-Britannique**

Prince George  
(250) 960-1155 (office)

**North**

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**Dunmore Place (TH)**

Kitimat  
(250) 632-7228 (office)

**Fort Nelson Women's Shelter (TH)**

Fort Nelson  
(250) 774-4742 (phone/crisis)

**Haida Gwaii Society for Community Peace (TH)**

Masset

(250) 626-4666 (office) / 1-877-626-4677

**Kaushee's Place (TH)**

Whitehorse

(867) 633-7720 (office)

**Lakes District Safe Haven Home Society (TH)**

Burns Lake

(250) 692-7220 (office) / 1-800-663-2993

**Mackenzie Safe Home (Safe Home)**

Mackenzie

(250) 997-6595 (office)

**Mizpah Transition House (TH)**

Dawson Creek

(250) 782-9176 (office/crisis)

**Passage House (TH)**

Smithers

(250) 847-9000 (office)

**The Hope Haven Transition House (TH)**

Prince Rupert

(250) 627-8959 (office)

**Terrace Transition House (TH)**

Terrace

(250) 635-6843 (office)

**Three Sisters Haven (TH)**

Telegraph Creek

(250) 235-3113 (office)

**Tumbler Ridge Family Support Society (Safe Home)**

Tumbler Ridge

(250) 242-4215 (office)

**Chetwynd Women's Resource Society**

Chetwynd

(250) 788-3793 (office)

**Kitimat Home Support Services Society**

Kitimat

(250) 632-2715 (office)

**Prince Rupert Community Enrichment Society**

Prince Rupert

(250) 627-7166 (office)

**Sherielle Manors** (Second Stage)  
Smithers  
(250) 847-9000 (office)

## Appendix #8: Interpretation and Translation Programs in B.C.

The following agencies provide interpretation and/or translation services in many languages. However, this list does not cover all languages. To enquire about a language not listed below, call the agency nearest to you and ask them about services that are available in other languages.

### Chinese

Abbotsford	Abbotsford Community Services	604-859-7681
Burnaby	Burnaby Multicultural Society	604-431-4131
	Van. & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services	604-436-1025
Chilliwack	Chilliwack Community services	604-792-7376
Coquitlam	SUCCESS	604-468-6000
Kamloops	Kamloops Cariboo Immigrants Society	250-372-0855
Kelowna	Multicultural Society of Kelowna	250-762-2155
Langley	Langley Family Services Association	604-534-7921
Nanaimo	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	250-753-6911
North Vancouver	North Shore Multicultural Society	604-988-2931
Prince George	Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society	250-562-2900
Richmond	CHIMO Crisis Line (Cantonese)	604-278-8283
	CHIMO Crisis Line (Mandarin)	604-279-8882
	Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society	604-279-7160
	Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society	604-597-1358
Surrey	Multicultural Women's Program	604-951-1740
	Immigrant Services Society of B.C.	604-684-7498
Vancouver	MOSAIC	Translations 604-254-0469
		Interpretations 604-254-8022
Victoria	SUCCESS	604-684-1628
	Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria	250-388-4728

### Farsi

Abbotsford	Abbotsford Community Services	604-859-7681
Burnaby	Burnaby Multicultural Society	604-431-4131
	Van & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services	604-436-1025
Chilliwack	Chilliwack Community Services	604-792-7376
Coquitlam	SUCCESS	604-468-6000
Kamloops	Kamloops Cariboo Immigrants Society	250-372-0855
Kelowna	Multicultural Society of Kelowna	250-762-2155
Langley	Langley Family Services Association	604-534-7921
Nanaimo	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	250-753-6911
North Vancouver	North Shore Multicultural Society	604-988-2931
Surrey	Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society	604-597-1358
	Multicultural Women's Program	604-951-1740
Vancouver	Immigrant Services Society of B.C.	604-684-7498
	MOSAIC	Translations 604-254-0469
		Interpretations 604-254-8022
Victoria	Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria	250-388-4728

## **French**

Abbotsford	Abbotsford Community Services	604-859-7681
Burnaby	Burnaby Multicultural Society	604-431-4131
	Van & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services	604-436-1025
Chilliwack	Chilliwack Community Services	604-792-7376
Kamloops	Kamloops Cariboo Immigrants Society	250-372-0855
Kelowna	Multicultural Society of Kelowna	250-762-2155
Nanaimo	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	250-753-5503
North Vancouver	North Shore Multicultural Society	604-988-2931
Prince George	Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society	250-562-2900
Richmond	Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society	604-279-7160
Surrey	Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society	604-597-1358
Vancouver	La Fédération des francophones de la C.-B. Toll-free	604-732-1420 1- 888-730-3322
	Inform'Elles (Women's Information Line) Toll-free	604-736-6974 1- 888-730-3322
	MOSAIC	Translations 604-254-0469 Interpretations 604-254-8022
Victoria	Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre	250-361-9433
	Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria	250-388-4728

## **Hindi**

Abbotsford	Abbotsford Community Services	604-859-7681
Burnaby	Burnaby Multicultural Society	604-431-4131
	Seniors South Asian Friendship Society	604-525-1671
	Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services	604-436-1025
Chilliwack	Chilliwack Community Services	604-792-7376
Kamloops	Kamloops Cariboo Immigrants Society	250-372-0855
Kelowna	Multicultural Concerns Society	250-762-2155
Nanaimo	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	250-753-6911
Prince George	Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society	250-562-2900
Richmond	Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society	604-279-7160
Surrey	Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society	604-597-1358
	Surrey-Delta Indo-Canadian Seniors Program	604-951-1740
	Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society	604-596-7722
Vancouver	MOSAIC	Translations 604-254-0469 Interpretations 604-254-8022
Victoria	Inter-cultural Association of Greater Victoria	250-388-4728
	Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre	250-361-9433

## **Japanese**

Abbotsford	Abbotsford Community Services	604-859-7681
Burnaby	Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services	604-436-1025
Chilliwack	Chilliwack Community Services	604-792-7376
Kelowna	Multicultural Society of Kelowna	250-762-2155
Langley	Langley Family Services Association	604-534-7921
Nanaimo	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	250-753-5503

North Vancouver	North Shore Multicultural Society	604-988-2931
Prince George	Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society	250-562-2900
Surrey	Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society	604-597-1358
Vancouver	MOSAIC	Translations 604-254-0469
		Interpretations 604-254-8022
Victoria	Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria	250-388-4728

### **Korean**

Abbotsford	Abbotsford Community Services	604-859-7681
Burnaby	Burnaby Multicultural Society	604-431-4131
	Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services	604-436-1025
Coquitlam	SUCCESS	604-468-6000
Kelowna	Multicultural Society of Kelowna	250-762-2155
Langley	Langley Family Services Association	604-534-7921
Nanaimo	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	250-753-5503
North Vancouver	North Shore Multicultural Society	604-988-2931
Prince George	Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society	250-562-2900
Surrey	Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society	604-597-1358
	Multicultural Women's Program	604-951-1740
Vancouver	MOSAIC	Translations 604-254-0469
		Interpretations 604-254-8022
Victoria	Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria	250-388-4728

### **Punjabi**

Abbotsford	Abbotsford Community Services	604-859-7681
Burnaby	Burnaby Multicultural Society	604-431-4131
	Seniors South Asian Friendship Society	604-525-1671
	Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services	604-436-1025
Chilliwack	Chilliwack Community Services	604-792-7376
Kamloops	Kamloops Cariboo Immigrants Society	250-372-0855
Kelowna	Multicultural Society of Kelowna	250-762-2155
Nanaimo	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	250-753-6911
Prince George	Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society	250-562-2900
Richmond	Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society	604-279-7160
Surrey	Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society	604-597-1358
	Multicultural Women's Program	604-951-1740
	Progressive Intercultural Community Services Society	604-596-7722
Vancouver	Immigrant Services Society of B.C.	604-684-7498
	MOSAIC	Translations 604-254-0469
		Interpretations 604-254-8022
Victoria	Inter-cultural Association of Greater Victoria	250-388-4728
	Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre	250-361-9433

### **Russian**

Abbotsford	Abbotsford Community Services	604-859-7681
Burnaby	Burnaby Multicultural Society	604-431-4131
	Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services	604-436-1025

Kamloops	Kamloops Cariboo Immigrants Society	250-372-0855
Kelowna	Multicultural Society of Kelowna	250-762-2155
Nanaimo	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	250-753-5503
North Vancouver	North Shore Multicultural Society	604-988-2931
Prince George	Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society	250-562-2900
Richmond	Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society	604-279-7160
Surrey	Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society	604-597-1358
Vancouver	MOSAIC	Translations 604-254-0469
		Interpretations 604-254-8022
Victoria	Inter-cultural Association of Greater Victoria	250-388-4728

### Spanish

Abbotsford	Abbotsford Community Services	604-870-3769
Burnaby	Burnaby Multicultural Society	604-431-4131
	Vancouver and Lower Mainland Multicultural	
	Family Support Services	604-436-1025
Chilliwack	Chilliwack Community Services	604-792-7376
Coquitlam	SUCCESS	604-468-6000
Kamloops	Kamloops Cariboo Immigrants Society	250-372-0855
Kelowna	Multicultural Society of Kelowna	250-762-2155
Nanaimo	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	250-753-6911
North Vancouver	North Shore Multicultural Society	604-988-2931
Prince George	Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society	250-562-2900
Surrey	Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society	604-597-1358
Vancouver	Immigrant Services Society of B.C.	604-684-7498
	MOSAIC	Translations 604-254-0469
		Interpretations 604-254-8022
Victoria	Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria	250-388-4728
	Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre	250-361-9433

### Vietnamese

Abbotsford	Abbotsford Community Services	604-859-7681
Burnaby	Burnaby Multicultural Society	604-431-4131
	Vancouver and lower Mainland Multicultural	
	Family Support Services	604-436-1025
Chilliwack	Chilliwack Community Services	604-792-7376
Kamloops	Kamloops Cariboo Immigrants Society	250-372-0855
Kelowna	Multicultural Society of Kelowna	250-762-2155
Nanaimo	Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society	250-753-5503
Prince George	Immigrant and Multicultural Services Society	250-562-2900
Surrey	Surrey-Delta Immigrant Services Society	604-597-1358
Vancouver	MOSAIC	Translations 604-254-0469
		Interpretations 604-254-8022
Victoria	Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre	250-361-9433
	Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria	250-388-4728
	Victoria Immigration and Refugee Centre	250-361-9433

## Appendix #9 – Sample Safety Service Plans

### SAFETY SERVICE PLAN FOR MOTHER AND CHILDREN

#### Example #1: Parents Recently Separated

PLAN FOR (Parent(s) name(s): Jane			
FOR THE TIME PERIOD:			
CHILD A: Jimmy	Age: 7	CHILD B: Joanne	Age: 4
CHILD C: Jake	Age: 5	CHILD D:	Age:
Safety factors to be addressed (list most serious issue)	Measurable outcomes required to enhance safety	Strategies/services required to achieve outcomes	Review Date
<p><b>Violence Against Mother</b></p> <p>1. The parents have recently separated but continue to have contact. At times, the contact results in arguments about issues such as reuniting, visiting with and caring for the children, finances, housing etc. Jane states she is trying to deal with these issues which has resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occasions when the children do not have adequate clothing, do not receive meals at normal meal times when children are hungry, and times when Jane is not able to respond positively to children's need for attention</li> </ul> <p>• Periods of time when the children are unsupervised</p>	<p>Jane can identify the names and telephone numbers of two people and/or two community services that she can call for information and support, and to advocate on her behalf with these issues.</p>		
	<p>Jane can identify and know how to contact a community program that is available to provide support to single mothers and children. Jane will access a program weekly.</p>	<p>Family support worker to assist and monitor.</p>	<p>Weekly for 3 months</p>
	<p>Jane can describe a daily routine that meets the children's physical and emotional needs. For one week mother will keep a log documenting what is working and what is not.</p>	<p>Family support worker to discuss with mother ways in which the children's physical and emotional needs can be met.</p>	<p>Weekly for 3 months</p>
	<p>Jane can identify one or two people or services available to give her respite/relief/babysitting for the children. Jane will access this support at least once a week in order to provide some time for herself.</p>	<p>Family support worker to assist and monitor. Informal helper - church volunteer to assist.</p>	<p>Weekly for 3 months</p>
<p>2. Conflict and potential for violence is present during transition time when the children go to or return from a visit with their father.</p>	<p>Jane has a written plan that addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How and when she and her ex-spouse will</li> </ul>	<p>Family violence prevention worker to assist in the development of the written plan.</p>	<p>Bi-weekly for 3 months</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>have contact when the children will have access visits with their father and where and how the transition will occur</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Children</b></p> <p>Jimmy is exhibiting aggressive behaviour at school with his female classmates. He is also defiant with his teacher. His aggressive and defiant behaviour is similar to his father's although not as violent.</p> <p>Jake is having difficulties sleeping and awaking frequently due to "bad dreams". He has told his brother that it's his fault that his father hits his mother because he "steals" cookies and wets his bed.</p>	<p>Jimmy is able to communicate with his classmates in a respectful manner.</p> <p>Jimmy is able to settle disputes without becoming aggressive or violent.</p> <p>Jimmy complies with teacher's requests and is able to follow classroom "rules".</p> <p>Jimmy is able to express his feelings about his father's violent behaviour.</p> <p>Jake is able to express his feelings about his "bad dreams" with an adult who works with children who have been exposed to violence.</p> <p>Jake knows and is able to say that he is not responsible for his father's violent behaviour.</p> <p>Jake is able to see his mother react in a non-violent way to his behaviour.</p> <p>Jake to sleep through night without wetting his bed.</p>	<p>Weekly attendance at a Children Who Witness Abuse Program</p> <p>As above</p> <p>As above</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Attendance at Children Who Witness Abuse Program.</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Mother to speak with Children Who Witness Abuse program counselor regarding helpful ways of responding to Jake's "stealing".</p> <p>Medical examination by doctor to determine if there is a medical reason for Jake's bedwetting.</p> <p>Mother and doctor to develop a schedule to reduce the likelihood of Jake's bedwetting eg. limiting Jake's intake of liquids before bed time.</p>	12 weeks
<p><b>SOCIAL WORKER:</b></p> <p><b>PARENT:</b></p> <p><b>CHILD/YOUTH:</b> (if applicable)</p>	<p><b>DATE:</b></p> <p><b>DATE:</b></p> <p><b>DATE:</b></p>	<p><b>SUPERVISOR:</b></p> <p><b>PARENT:</b></p> <p><b>CHILD/YOUTH:</b> (if applicable)</p>	



**SAFETY SERVICE PLAN FOR MOTHER AND CHILDREN**

**Example #2: Parents Staying Together**

<b>PLAN FOR (Parent(s) name(s): Jane</b>		
<b>FOR THE TIME PERIOD:</b>		
<b>CHILD A: Jimmy</b>	<b>Age: 7</b>	<b>CHILD B: Joanne</b>
<b>CHILD C: Jake</b>	<b>Age: 5</b>	<b>CHILD D:</b>

<b>Safety factors to be addressed (list most serious issue)</b>	<b>Measurable outcomes required to enhance safety</b>	<b>Strategies/services required to achieve outcomes</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
<p><b>Violence Against Mother</b></p> <p>John has physically assaulted Jane in the past. They both want to continue the relationship, which means that the children may become involved in a physical fight between their parents, or be exposed to their parents fighting.</p>	<p>Jane will increase the safety for herself and her children by developing a safety plan that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) making a list of important phone numbers for herself and her children</li> <li>2) Identifying two people she can tell about the violence and ask them to call the police when necessary.</li> <li>3) Listing three different places that she and the children can go should they leave the home.</li> <li>4) Leaving extra money, keys, clothes and documents with a person she has identified with the social worker.</li> <li>5) Making a list of things she will bring should she leave.</li> <li>6) Keeping change for a phone call at all times and rehearsing an escape route with a support person.</li> </ol>	<p>Family violence prevention worker.</p>	<p>Monthly or as often as needed by Jane.</p>
	<p>Jane can acknowledge her partner's responsibility for the violence and articulate the impact that it has upon herself and her children.</p>	<p>Weekly counselling sessions with a family violence prevention worker.</p> <p>Children attending all sessions of a Children Who Witness Abuse Program.</p>	<p>Bi-weekly</p>
	<p>Jane will comply with the agreed upon conditions outline in the Order of Supervision.</p>	<p>Bi-weekly meetings with child protection worker.</p>	<p>Monthly</p>

<p><b>Children</b></p> <p>The children have said the they are afraid when their father is violent. They want their mother to stop making him angry. They want to protect their mother but don't want to be hit by their father.</p>	<p>The children will have a safety plan that they can follow when their father becomes violent. It will include: where they can go; who they can call; what they should and shouldn't do and say.</p> <p>The children know and can say that their father is responsible for his violence.</p>	<p>Weekly attendance at a Children Who Witness Abuse Program.</p>	<p>Bi-weekly</p>												
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<b>CHILD/YOUTH:</b> (if applicable)	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>CHILD/YOUTH:</b> (if applicable)													

**SAFETY SERVICE PLAN FOR JOHN**

**Example #3: Parents Staying Together**

<b>PLAN FOR (Parent(s) name(s): John</b>			
<b>FOR THE TIME PERIOD:</b>			
<b>CHILD A:</b>	<b>Age:</b>	<b>CHILD B:</b>	<b>Age:</b>
<b>CHILD C:</b>	<b>Age:</b>	<b>CHILD D:</b>	<b>Age:</b>
<b>Safety factors to be addressed (list most serious issue)</b>	<b>Measurable outcomes required to enhance safety</b>	<b>Strategies/services required to achieve outcomes</b>	<b>Review Date</b>
<p>Violence against partner</p> <p>John has physically assaulted Jane in the past. They both want to continue the relationship, which means that the children may be involved in a physical fight between their parents or be exposed to them fighting.</p>	<p>John admits his violence and accepts responsibility for it.</p> <p>John can describe the feelings that he has before he becomes violent.</p>	<p>John attends a weekly counselling program for violent partners for a minimum of 6 months. Pertinent information arising from the sessions is available to child protection worker.</p>	Monthly
	<p>John can describe strategies he will use to avoid his verbal, emotional and physical abuse of Jane including leaving the house voluntarily.</p> <p>Each week, John will describe two events that angered him, which strategies he used and their effectiveness in managing his anger and behaviour.</p> <p>John identifies at least one person whom he can call when he feels that he might not be able to control his anger.</p>		<p>John attends mental health counselling weekly for 2 months initially. Pertinent information arising from sessions are available to child protection worker.</p>
	<p>John complies with the agreed upon conditions outlined in the Order of Supervision.</p>	<p>Meetings with child protection worker for duration of order of supervision.</p>	Weekly
<b>SOCIAL WORKER:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>SUPERVISOR:</b>	
<b>PARENT:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>PARENT:</b>	
<b>CHILD/YOUTH: (if applicable)</b>	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>CHILD/YOUTH: (if applicable)</b>	
<b>(if applicable)</b>	<b>(if applicable)</b>	<b>(if applicable)</b>	

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