



A TEEN'S

GUIDE TO SAFETY PLANNING

If you have questions about dating in general or a specific relationship, or if you are in an unhealthy or abusive relationship, you deserve support and resources to help you with your situation. You are not alone; our peer advocates are here for you 24/7.

Loveisrespect advocates are trained on issues related to dating abuse and healthy relationships, as well as crisis intervention. This means that when you contact a loveisrespect advocate, they will listen to your situation, assess how you're feeling in the moment, and help you figure out the next best steps for you. You might brainstorm a safety plan together, or the advocate may be able to find some local resources for you, whether it's a counselor, support group, legal service or whatever you might need.



CALL

1-866-331-9474

(1-866-331-8453 TTY for Deaf/hard of hearing individuals)



CHAT

Start a live chat by visiting loveisrespect.org



TEXT

Text* "loveis" to 22522

Message & Data Rates apply on text for help services.



love is respect V org



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WHAT IS A SAFETY PLAN?

A safety plan is a practical guide that helps lower your risk of being hurt by your abusive partner. It includes information specific to you and your life that will help keep you safe. A good safety plan helps you think through lifestyle changes that will help keep you as safe as possible on campus, in the dorms and other places that you go on a daily basis.



WHY DO I NEED A SAFETY PLAN?

Everyone deserves a relationship that is healthy, safe and supportive. If you are in a relationship that is hurting you, it is important for you to know that the abuse is not your fault. It is also important for you to start thinking of ways to keep yourself safe from the abuse, whether you decide to end the relationship or not. While you can't control your partner's abusive behavior, you can take action to keep yourself as safe as possible.



HOW DO I MAKE A SAFETY PLAN?

Take some time for yourself to go through each section of this safety plan. You can complete this guide on your own, or you can work through it with someone else that you trust.



Keep in Mind

In order for this safety plan to work for you, you'll need to fill in personalized answers, so you can use the information when you most need it.

Once you complete your safety plan, be sure to keep it in an accessible but secure location. You might also consider giving a copy of your safety plan to someone that you trust.

Getting support from someone who has experience working with college students in abusive relationships can be very useful.

MY SAFETY PLAN

I could talk to the following people at school if I need to rearrange my schedule in order to avoid my abusive partner, or if I need help staying safe at school:

- School Counselor
- Coach
- Teachers:

- Principal Assistant/Vice principal
- School security
- Other:

If I live with my abusive partner, I will have a bag ready with these important items in case I need to leave quickly (check all that apply):

- CELL PHONE & CHARGER SPARE MONEY
- KEYS
- DRIVER'S LICENSE OR OTHER FORM OF ID
- COPY OF RESTRAINING ORDER
- BIRTH CERTIFICATE, SOCIAL SECURITY CARD, IMMIGRATION PAPERS AND OTHER IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS
- CHANGE OF CLOTHES MEDICATIONS
- SPECIAL PHOTOS OR OTHER VALUABLE ITEMS
- IF I HAVE CHILDREN— ANYTHING THEY MAY NEED (IMPORTANT PAPERS, FORMULA, DIAPERS)

Staying Safe at School:

The safest way for me to get to and from school is:

If I need to leave school in an emergency, I can get home safely by:

I can make sure that a friend can walk with me between classes. I will ask:

_____ and/or

I will eat lunch and spend free periods in an area where there are school staff or faculty nearby. These are some areas on campus where I feel safe:

_____, and _____.

Staying Safe at Home:

I can tell this family member about what is going on in my relationship:

There may be times when no one else is home. During those times, I can have people stay with me. I will ask:

The safest way for me to leave my house in an emergency is:

If I have to leave in an emergency, I should try to go to a place that is public, safe and unknown by my abusive partner. I could go here:

and/or here: _____.

I will use a code word so I can alert my family, friends, and neighbors to call for help without my abusive partner knowing about it. My code word is:



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WE ARE HERE TO HELP

CHAT: 24/7/365

CALL: 1.866.331.9474

TEXT: LOVEIS TO 22522

MY SAFETY PLAN

Staying Safe Emotionally:

My abusive partner often tries to make me feel bad about myself by saying or doing this: _____

When he/she does this, I will think of these reasons why I know my abuser is wrong:

_____,
_____ and
_____.

I will do things I enjoy, like:

_____,
_____ and
_____.

I will join clubs or organizations that interest me, like:

_____ or _____.

If I feel down, depressed or scared, I can call the following friends or family members:

Name: _____
Phone #: _____



During an emergency, I can call the following friends, family members or residential life staff at any time of day or night:

Name: _____
Phone #: _____

Getting Help in Your Community:

For emergencies: 911

loveisrespect: 1-866-331-9474

Campus police station:

Phone #: _____

Location: _____

Campus Health Center:

Phone #: _____

Location: _____

Campus Women's or LGBTQ Center:

Phone #: _____

Location: _____

Local Free Legal Assistance:

Phone #: _____

Address: _____



MY SAFETY PLAN

These are things I can do to help keep myself safe everyday:

- I will carry my cell phone and important telephone numbers with me at all times.
- I will keep in touch with someone I trust about where I am or what I am doing.
- I will stay out of isolated places and try to never walk around alone.
- If possible, I will alert dorm or campus security about what is happening in my relationship so that my abuser is not allowed in my building.
- I will avoid places where my abuser or his/her friends and family are likely to be. I will keep the doors and windows locked where I live, especially if I am alone.
- I will avoid speaking to my abuser. If it is unavoidable, I will make sure there are people around in case the situation becomes dangerous.
- I will call 911 if I feel my safety is at risk.
- I can look into getting a protective order so that I'll have legal support in keeping my abuser away. I can see if there are any self-defense classes available at my college or university.
- I will remember that the abuse is not my fault and that I deserve a safe and healthy relationship.

These are things I can do to help keep myself safe in my social life:

- I will ask my friends to keep their cell phones with them while they are with me in case we get separated and I need help.
- If possible, I will go to different malls, bars, banks, parties, grocery stores, movie theaters, dining halls, etc. than the ones my abusive partner goes to or knows about.
- I will avoid going out alone, especially at night.
- No matter where I go, I will be aware of how to leave safely in case of an emergency. I will leave if I feel uncomfortable in a situation, no matter what my friends are doing.
- If I plan on drinking, I will be sure to have a sober driver who is not my abusive partner.
- I will spend time with people who make me feel safe, supported and good about myself.

These are things I can do to stay safe online and with my cell phone:

- I will not say or do anything online that I wouldn't in person.
- I will set all my online profiles to be as private as they can be.
- I will save and keep track of any abusive, threatening or harassing comments, posts, or texts. I will never give my password to anyone.
- If the abuse and harassment does not stop, I will change my usernames, email addresses, and/or cell phone number.
- I will not answer calls from unknown, blocked or private numbers.
- I can see if my phone company can block my abuser's phone number from calling my phone.
- I will not communicate with my abuser using any type of technology if unnecessary, since any form of communication can be recorded and possibly used against me in the future.