

Checklist Of What You Need To Take With You When You Leave Your Abuser.

For Survival:

- Photo identification for yourself and your children
- Passports for yourself and your children
- Children's birth certificates
- Your birth certificate
- Your children's social security cards
- Your social security card, if you have one
- Your green card (alien registration card), for you and your children if you and or they have one.
- Money for phone calls, transportation and expenses
- Credit cards, checkbooks, bankbooks, ATM cards
- Work permits for you and your older children
- Welfare identification for you and your children
- Keys to the house, office and car and any ownership documents
- Drivers license and registration
- Necessary medicines, medical records and insurance papers for yourself and your children
- Children's school and vaccination records
- Small saleable objects
- Clothing for you and the children
- All court documents
- Telephone/address books, including victim service providers
- Children's favorite toys, books and blankets
- Your sentimental and irreplaceable items, such as photographs, jewelry, special gifts from your family.

To prove the abuse and its affect on you and your children:

- Copies of police reports
- Copies of medical reports
- Hospital records documenting abuse (even if you did not tell anyone the cause of the abuse)
- Copies of current and former protection orders (civil, criminal, temporary, emergency)
- Photographs of your injuries
- Torn clothing or destroyed property
- Your diary
- Names of shelters you have stayed at
- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of doctors, nurses, counselors, mental health professionals and social workers whom you or your children have spoken with or received treatment from.
- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers of people who: saw your bruises, heard you scream, witnessed any incident of the abuse, you told about the abuse, you

have stayed with for a refuge or can describe the effect that the abuse has had on you and your children.

___ Names, addresses and telephone numbers of police officers, prosecutors, judges or the government officials who knew about the domestic violence you experienced.

To Obtain Child Support:

___ Your husband's or the father of your child's social security card.

___ A copy of your husband/father of your child's most recent pay stub

___ The name, address, phone and fax number of your husband/father of your child's employer.

___ A copy of your husband/father of your child's tax returns for the past three years

___ Proof of who is your child's father (Children's birth certificates, acknowledgement of paternity or other proof)

For Battered immigrant women who may qualify for a Violence Against Women Act or other immigration case:

___ Work permits, green cards, visa applications, and other immigration papers for you and your children.

___ Copies of any documents filed with INS

___ Marriage license and certificate for current marriage

___ Divorce papers from your previous marriage (s) or your spouse's previous marriage (s)

___ Birth certificates, adoption, acknowledgement of paternity records for each of your children.

___ Passports and -94's (record of entry into the US) for you and your children, if you have one.

___ Identification (Social Security, driver's licenses, welfare identification)

___ Copies of your spouse's birth certificate, social security card, green card, or certificate of naturalization

___ If your spouse was born abroad and is now a citizen or has legal permission from INS to live and work in the United States write down and take with you his "A" number, the number on his green card, work visa or naturalization certificate.

___ Court papers filed and court orders related to you, your husband/partner and your children.

___ Photographs of wedding, wedding invitations, love letters from spouse.

___ Family photographs from vacations, birthdays, family events and trips you have taken.

___ Personal property or real property deeds leases and rental agreements in both of your names.

___ Papers that show you lived with your husband in the U.S (such as copies of the lease agreement, real property deed, utility bills, rent receipts, mortgage payment book, letters addressed to the two of you, letters addressed to you and other letters or magazines addressed to your abuser at the same address during the same time period).

___ Names, addresses and telephone numbers of persons who knew you as a couple, knew that you and your husband lived together, or who saw any of your injuries or any of the incidents of violence.

___ Copies of documents related to joint checking or savings accounts

___ Joint tax returns listing you as a dependant.

___ Identification with a photograph listing you with your married name

___ Life and health insurance policies covering you and your spouse and children

___ Letter from employer stating that you or your spouse listed the other spouse as an emergency contact.