Things to Take With You

Your safety and your children’s safety is MOST IMPORTANT!

If you can, Take:

• Money and credit cards
• Birth certificates and driver’s license
• Social Security and benefit cards
• Keys to car, house, and work
  • Extra clothes
  • Medicine
• School and medical records
• Bank statements and unpaid bills
• Insurance papers and car registration
  • Address book
  • Special toys for your children

Family Cases Handled

Physical Abuse Divorce
Custody and Visitation
Adoption
Orders of Protection
Other Family Court Matters

Other Legal Representation

Consumer & Bankruptcy
Education
Employment
Federal Income Tax
Housing
Migrant Farm Workers
Probate
Public Benefits

Additional information may be found at:
LawHelp.org/SC
South Carolina’s guide to free legal resources

South Carolina Legal Services
South Carolina’s guide to free legal resources

Our Mission
South Carolina Legal Services is a statewide law firm that provides civil legal services to protect the rights and represent the interests of low-income South Carolinians.

Domestic Violence Safety Plans:
Are you in an abusive relationship? Plan ahead so you can leave SAFELY.

For Free Services
1 (888) 346-5592
contactus@sclegal.org
www.sclegal.org / www.lawhelp.org/sc
www.probono.net/sc

Domestic Violence Safety Plans:
Are you in an abusive relationship? Plan ahead so you can leave SAFELY.
In an abusive relationship?

You may want to...
• Teach your children how to call 911.
• Create a code word so they know when you need help.
• Keep important phone numbers for law enforcement, shelter, friends, and family.
• Know the locations of nearby safe places.
• Tell friends or neighbors about the abuse and ask them to call the police if they hear violent noises.
• Make an escape plan for your home and at work.
• Invest in a cell phone.
• Open a credit card or bank account in your name only.

Considering Leaving?

• Identify 2 different places you could go.
• Think about people who could help you. Could they loan you money or keep your belongings?
• Keep a bag of items you will need if you leave. Leave the bag at work or with a friend.
• Consider what you should do with your children and pets. Would they be safer with you or not?
• Think of excuses to leave the house, such as walking the dog, going to the grocery store, or taking out the trash.
• Make extra copies of the house and car keys.
• Review your safety plan often and practice it step by step.

Already Left?

• Continue to monitor your safety.
• Consider filing for an Order of Protection or Restraining Order. If you get one, give copies to your boss and children’s teachers. ALWAYS keep it with you.
• Change the locks.
• Give your friends and neighbors a picture of your abuser.
• Ask your friends and neighbors to call the police if they see your abuser near you or your home.
• Tell your children’s caretakers who is allowed to pick up the children.
• Ask a coworker to screen your calls.
• Use different stores and driving routes than you previously used.
• Find a support group or counselor.
• Find a safe way to communicate with your abuser, if you must.