

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

Additional information may be found at:

LawHelp.org/SC

South Carolina's guide to free legal resources

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

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South Carolina
BAR FOUNDATION
Lawyers Sustaining Justice



**South Carolina
Legal Services**

Balancing the Scales of Justice

Domestic Violence Safety Plans:

**Are you in an abusive relationship?
Plan ahead so you can leave SAFELY.**



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.

For Free Services

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

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.