



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE of ORANGE

Sample Protocol for Responding to Domestic Violence Victims

Initial Response

"I'm sorry that this has happened or is happening to you and I am glad that you are telling me so that we can help."

"I would like to ask you a few more questions. Is the person who is abusing you living with you right now?"

"Are there children or elders in the home?"

"Do you feel safe going home?"

"Let me give you some pointers on how to develop a safety plan for you and your children."

Harm Reduction Strategies

"I want you to know that I am concerned for your safety and the safety of your children, you are not alone and help is available. This is not your fault. Please don't feel ashamed, violence between family members is common and it does not go away and often gets worse over time. It can have a significant impact on your health and wellbeing".

"There are people who can help you. I would like you to call Human Options. They are a community program that we work closely with. It would be confidential and they can tell you about many options and services that are available for you."

(We may want to designate someone at Catholic Charities or other Catholic agency who would also be a person to call). "I would like you to call Norma at Catholic Charities she can tell you about the many options and services available for you."

"If you feel like making a call now I can make a phone available to you." (877) 854-3594.

"If you would like to think about it let me give you this card. You can tear off the bottom number and put it someplace and call when you are ready. There will be someone there 24-hours a day. I encourage you to call soon."

"Please let me know how you are doing. If it becomes dangerous for you do not hesitate to call 911."

Short Safety Plan - Items to take or put in a safe place checklist:

Identification	Birth certificates for my children and me
Immunization records	Social Security cards
School and medical records	Money, bankbooks, credit cards
Keys - house/car/office	Driver's license and registration
Medications	Change of clothes
Welfare identification	Passports, green card, work permit
Divorce papers	Lease/rental agreement, house deed
Mortgage payment book, current unpaid bills	Insurance papers
Address book	Pictures, jewelry, items of sentimental value
Children's favorite toys and/or blankets	