

Know Before You Go

Economic-Related State and Local Policies

- Restitution statutes
  - Protection Order statutes
  - Workplace protections and sick/absentee leave
  - Housing protections and lease terms
  - Filing fees for protection orders
  - Crime Victim Compensation
  - Forensic medical exams

**Costs of Justice System Participation**

  - Transportation and parking
    - Cost of parking per hour: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
    - Bus passes provided?  Yes
    - Cost of public/other transit: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Cost/availability of childcare: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Employment and education
    - Leave from work?  Yes
    - Amount of lost wages: \$ \_\_\_\_\_
    - Number of missed classes: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Filing fees for CPOs?  Yes  No

**Navigating the system**

  - Do you need to bring food or money for lunch?  Yes  No
  - How many different courthouses/hearings do you need to go to? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Do any economic-related court orders contradict each other?  Yes

**Encountering the offender**

  - Economic threats in court?  Yes
  - Property damage or harm?  Yes
  - Other costs? \_\_\_\_\_

## Know Before You Go

Economic Benefits of the Latin American

- **Economic Benefits of the Justice System:** Through law enforcement response, court protection orders or offender incarceration, the criminal justice system can help **protect** victims **from physical harm** that can lead to high costs or work/school interruptions.

## Economic Security Considerations for

## Safer Survivors:

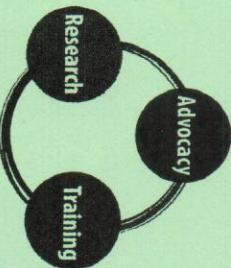
A Victim Advocate  
Pocket Guide

### **Includes:**

## Economic costs, benefits and policies

### **intake & interview questions**

To access the full Victim Advocate's Guide to Safety and Economic Security for Victims of Violence Against Women, see: <http://www.wowonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/WOW-ESS-Victim-Advocate-Sector-Guide.pdf>



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## Economic-Related Safety Planning Considerations:

- Close or change passwords to all financial accounts (checking, savings, investment, etc.), debit/credit cards and freeze credit reports.
- Change/close email and social media accounts.
- Change direct deposit, emergency contact, retirement and insurance plans, and other data on file at the workplace that might allow offenders to access victims.
- Change the victim's mailing address to a P.O. box or another alternative address to receive bills and other financial statements. Consider a state address confidentiality program.
- Store important documents, emergency funds and other items in a safe location.
- Assess safe, no or low-cost transportation alternatives. If unavoidable, determine how to recuperate costs or partner with local organizations.
- Work with victims to mitigate childcare risks:
  - ⇒ Research alternative childcare providers.
  - ⇒ Apply for childcare subsidies or other aid.
  - ⇒ Notify the provider of legal agreements and risks with the victim's approval.
- Work with victims and their employer to:
  - ⇒ Change the victim's shift or workspace.
  - ⇒ Change work phone numbers and email.
  - ⇒ Establish a code word to call for help.
- Work with victims and their schools to:
  - ⇒ Change the offender's housing instead of the victim's to reduce relocating burden.
  - ⇒ Remove the offender from classes or change the victim's classes or campus job.
  - ⇒ Ensure the victim has access to private or school-based health care and insurance.

## Recommended Intake and Interview Questions:

- Did the offender destroy anything you need for immediate safety, to get to work or school, or to pay bills?
- Are there any documents you need to collect and keep safe for your economic security? (Visas, passport, social security card, etc.)
- What out-of-pocket costs have you incurred? (Bills, relocation, emergency contraception, security equipment, etc.)
- Has the offender taken any of your money, including paychecks?
- Does the offender have keys to your home, work or car?
- Do you have access to your bank account and other finances? Does the offender?
- Have you been intimidated or threatened financially?
- Have you had to take security measures or change your routine?
  - ⇒ What costs were associated?
  - ⇒ Did it affect your housing, school or job?
- Does the offender know the passwords to your computers, accounts or phone?
- Has the offender forced you to commit any crimes, economic or otherwise?
- Is the offender in a position of power over your job, school, scholarship or housing?
- Has the offender prevented you from gaining citizenship or a work visa?
- Are there any economic issues that will keep you from participating in the justice system if you choose?

## Potential Economic-Related Evidence Examples:

- Photographs of injuries and damaged property.
- Security camera footage that may have captured the offender's commission of injuries or property damage.
- Property in the offender's possession at the time of arrest that belonged to the victim.
- Value or repair cost of damaged or destroyed property, with corroboration from the victim.
- Calls, emails, text messages and social media both at home and at work or school.
- Financial documents showing related costs of the violence (bank statements, credit reports, bills, invoices, receipts, canceled checks, stolen pay checks, etc.).
- Documentation of health care costs due to injuries from violence.
- Records of missed work or school due to the violence (HR leave request forms, security signs-in logs, school attendance reports, etc.).
- Technological documentation of:
  - ⇒ Cyber-stalking/electronic surveillance;
  - ⇒ Online economic crimes and identity theft;
  - ⇒ Phone or email spoofing;
  - ⇒ Unauthorized GPS tracking; or
  - ⇒ Phone breaking.
- Protection measures taken by the victim (security systems, moving to another residence, changing phone numbers, etc.) and the costs of such measures (receipts, bills, bank statements, credit card reports, etc.).