

Financial Escape Plan Tips

IF ACCESS TO MONEY IS LIMITED OR YOU ARE BEING FINANCIALLY ABUSED

- Always put aside cash when you can. If you are working, ask your employer if they can provide you with two checks - One to be for a partial amount (eg. \$50) to put into your OWN NEW bank account.
- If your abuser gives you cash, a debit or credit card for groceries, take an additional \$10-\$20 (or more if possible) cash back each time and hide it or purchase pre-paid cards so it is untraceable when you leave.
- Take photos of the suggested financial documents on the escape list and securely store them on a USB stick or digital file.
- Purchase a PO Box or use a close, trusted family or friend's mailing address to have any mail, banking info, etc. sent to.
- Open your OWN bank account, line of credit, debit and credit card(s).
- When you are ready to leave, notify your bank(s), credit card suppliers, mortgage, etc. ,to get print outs or emails of CURRENT balances. You may want to explain your situation so they can put a flag or note on your accounts so it is documented.
- Once you have secured a new bank account, credit card(s), line of credit and anything else you are eligible for IN YOUR NAME ONLY, have your name removed from any credit cards or line of credits in which they can use. You don't want to be responsible for that additional debt incurred after you leave.
- Contact a financial adviser or trusted financially savvy family or friends to help guide you through your current financial situation.
- Contact an attorney. They can help guide you through the process and help secure shared financial property as needed.
- If renting, take photos of the property BEFORE you leave to show condition of the property before you left in case your abuser destroys property and they try to come back at you for damage deposit.