

# IS YOUR CLIENT SAFE?

fact sheet series



## Relationship Violence Client Resources

### Community resources

#### Advocates

Advocates provide free legal information and emotional support. Contact PovNet to find one.

**Website:** [www.povnet.org](http://www.povnet.org)  
*(click Find an Advocate)*

#### Community agencies

Community agencies provide support, counselling, settlement services, and general information. To find one near you, contact BC211.

**Phone:** 211  
**Website:** [www.bc211.ca](http://www.bc211.ca)

#### Ending Violence Association of BC (EVA)

EVA provides services to community-based victim assistance, Stopping the Violence Counselling, and Stopping the Violence Outreach programs

**Website:** [www.endingviolence.org](http://www.endingviolence.org)

#### Medical clinics and hospitals

Urgent and longer-term services are available to assist people who are recovering from relationship violence.

##### HealthLinkBC

Health information and advice are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Translation services are available in over 130 languages.

**Phone:** 811  
**Website:** [www.healthlinkbc.ca](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca)

##### BC Women's Hospital Woman Abuse Response Program

This program supports community health services for women affected by relationship abuse.

**Phone:** 604-875-3717  
**Website:** [www.bcwomens.ca](http://www.bcwomens.ca)  
*(click Services — Health Services — A Woman Abuse Response Team)*

##### Vancouver General Hospital

The Adult Protection Domestic Violence Social Worker offers assistance to victims of abuse. Services are free under the Medical Services Plan.

**Phone:** 604-875-4111 (ext. 55458)

#### Safe housing

Safe houses are emergency accommodations that provide immediate safety for your client. Transition houses are temporary housing for your client when she leaves a relationship. Second stage housing provides longer-term support after she leaves a transition house. For a referral to the nearest safe house or transition house, call **VictimLink BC** at 1-800-563-0808.

##### BC Housing

**Phone:** 1-800-563-0808  
**Website:** [www.bchousing.org](http://www.bchousing.org)  
*(click Housing Options — Emergency housing — Women's Transition Housing & Supports)*

##### BC Society of Transition Houses

**Phone:** 1-800-661-1040  
**Website:** [www.bcsth.ca](http://www.bcsth.ca)

##### Domestic Violence BC

**Website:** [www.domesticviolence.bc.ca](http://www.domesticviolence.bc.ca)  
*(click Staying Safe)*

#### Income Assistance

The BC government provides income assistance (welfare) in the form of money and other benefits if a person is in need. Your client should advise them if she is leaving an abusive relationship. She can apply for hardship assistance if she needs money for food, housing, or medical needs. Contact the **Ministry of Social Development** office at 1-866-866-0800  
*(call no charge, 24 hours a day, seven days a week)*



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### Victim Services

Victim service workers provide services such as safety planning; emotional support; justice system information; support for going to criminal court, to the police, or to other related appointments; and referrals to counselling and other services.

### Community-Based Victim Assistance Programs

These programs provide information, advocacy, and support specifically for women survivors of violence in relationships, childhood abuse, or sexual assault.

### Crime Victim Assistance Program

Financial benefits are provided to assist victims, immediate family members, and certain witnesses in dealing with the effects of violent crime.

### Stopping the Violence Counselling Programs

Counselling services for women survivors/victims of relationship violence, childhood abuse, or sexual assault.

### Outreach and Multicultural Outreach Services Programs

Services offered include counselling for women, referrals to community services, local transportation, court accompaniment, and advocacy. Programs are provided in over 20 languages.

### Victim Safety Unit

Provides notification to victims about the status of an accused person or offender, as well as support for victims going to court.

For specific services and programs in your community, contact **VictimLink BC** (see above, under *Safe housing*).

## Publications and online resources

Print and online information about relationship violence and abuse is available from the following organizations.

### Battered Women's Support Services

- *Toolkit for Immigrant Women Working with a Lawyer*
- *Violence Against Women and the Law*

**Website:** [www.bwss.org](http://www.bwss.org)

(under *Resources*, click *Publications*)

### Ending Violence Association of BC

*Assisting with Developing Safety Plans — Using Checklists*

**Website:** [www.endingviolence.org](http://www.endingviolence.org)

(click *publications*)

### Government of Canada

Family Violence publications

**Website:** [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca)

(click *Reports & Publications — Family Violence*)

### Legal Services Society

Abuse & family violence publications at [www.legallaid.bc.ca/publications](http://www.legallaid.bc.ca/publications) including:

- *Live Safe — End Abuse Fact Sheets*
- *Surviving Relationship Violence and Abuse* (booklet)

Family Law in BC website

**Website:** [www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca](http://www.familylaw.lss.bc.ca)

(click *Fact sheets — Abuse & family violence*)

### Ministry of Justice

Victim Services publications and information sheets.

**Website:** [www.gov.bc.ca/justice](http://www.gov.bc.ca/justice)

(click *Victim Services — Publications and Information Sheets*)

### Spot the Signs

*Safety Planning for Women Who Are Abused*

**Website:** [www.spotthesigns.ca](http://www.spotthesigns.ca)

(click *Spot the Signs*)

### Vancouver Coastal Health Domestic Violence Service

- *Domestic Violence Resource Card*
- *Help for Victims of Domestic Violence*
- *Leaving Domestic Violence — Safety Planning Checklist*

**Website:** [www.vch.ca](http://www.vch.ca)

(Under *Locations & Services*, click *Find Services*; then search by “Domestic Violence Service” in Vancouver, click *Links*, for related information)

### Victim Services in BC

2011 Directory

**Website:** [www.gov.bc.ca/justice](http://www.gov.bc.ca/justice)

(click *Victim Services — Directory of Victim Service and Violence Against Women Programs*)

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## YWCA Metro Vancouver

Website: [www.ywcavan.org/legaleducator](http://www.ywcavan.org/legaleducator)

(click *Legal Publications and Projects*)

## Resources for Aboriginal clients

### BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres

Phone: 250-388-5522 or 1-800-990-2432 (call no charge)

Website: [www.bcaafc.com](http://www.bcaafc.com)

### Native Courtworker and Counselling Association of BC

Phone: 604-985-5355 or 1-877-811-1190 (call no charge)

Website: [www.nccabc.ca](http://www.nccabc.ca)

### Other community resources

If your client is Aboriginal, community services available to her will vary depending on where she lives.

Services may include:

- addictions counsellors and programs
- band social workers and social development offices
- child care programs
- community health nurses
- elders groups and councils
- First Nations child and family services agencies

- health centre staff
- home care nurses and workers
- infant development programs
- literacy programs
- mental health counsellors
- residential school healing programs
- safe homes
- youth centres

For more information, see the Community Coordination for Women's Safety publication *Increasing Safety for Aboriginal Women: Key Themes and Resources* at [www.endingviolence.org](http://www.endingviolence.org) (click *CCWS — Publications*)

### Aboriginal print and online publications

- *Guide to Aboriginal Organizations and Services in British Columbia 2011/2012* at [www.gov.bc.ca/arr](http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr) (under *Related Links*, click *Guide to Aboriginal Organizations*)
- Legal Services Society fact sheet *Live Safe — End Abuse: Staying in the Family Home on Reserve* at [www.legalaid.bc.ca/publications](http://www.legalaid.bc.ca/publications) (click *Abuse & family violence*)

This fact sheet is a companion piece to the brochure *Is Your Client Safe? A Lawyer's Guide to Relationship Violence*.

**Other fact sheets in the series:**  
[Encouraging Disclosure](#)  
[Relationship Violence Legal Resources](#)  
[Safety Planning for You and Your Staff](#)  
[Safety Planning for Your Client](#)



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**ENDING VIOLENCE**  
Association of BC