



Provider Guide: People with Disabilities Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence

This guide is designed to help health and human service professionals provide support and safety planning for people with disabilities experiencing IPV.

OBSTACLES THE CLIENT MAY FACE

- Physical and cognitive/speech challenges
- Dependency on the abusive partner for care
- Lack of access to reporting mechanisms and public service systems (i.e. transportation, court, and shelter).

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN INTERACTING WITH THE CLIENT

- **Vulnerability**
Physical/mental challenges may prevent people with disabilities from leaving an abusive environment. Additionally, abusive partners may target and exploit a person's disabilities and physical/mental challenges. Furthermore, women with disabilities are more likely to experience intimate partner control of reproductive and sexual health than women without disabilities.
- **Specific/Special Accommodations**
If the client has a disability and wants to leave an abusive environment, they may need special accommodations (e.g. wheelchair ramp, guardrails, etc.) in a shelter, friend's home, or with transportation. People with ongoing medical needs may need to check in with their caregiver or doctor to access specific medication, equipment, or devices after relocation.
- **Dependency**
If the client has issues with communication, they may depend on their abusive partner for medical, legal, and/or financial care. See the resources below to connect them to proper provider(s).

USEFUL QUESTIONS TO ASK THE CLIENT

- **Do you have specific concerns about how your disability may affect your safety?**
If the effects of their disability are constant or fluctuating or their abusive partner is aware of anything that may trigger/worsen their disability, work with the client to make a separate safety plan for the different scenarios their disability may create.
- **Do you regularly take medication and/or use medical/assistive equipment?**
If possible, ask the client to keep an updated list of all their medications and charged batteries on their person. If it's safe, ask the client to notify their doctor if they need access to portable/back up medical/assistive equipment.
- **Do you have a caregiver (live-in nurse, home health aide, family member that assists with your care, etc.)?**
Recommend the client to inform their caregiver of their situation and the abusive partner's tendencies. If the client's abusive partner is their caregiver, please direct the client to the resources below to get assistance.



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RESOURCES

LEGAL

Community Legal Service of Philadelphia
(215) 981-3700 (Center City Office)
(215) 227-2400 (North Philadelphia Law Center)
1424 Chestnut St.

Legal Clinic for the Disabled
(215) 587-3350
1513 Race St.

SeniorLAW Center
(877) 727-7529 or (215) 988-1242
Two Penn Center, 1500 JFK Blvd. #1501

Women Against Abuse Legal Center
(215) 686-7082
100 S. Broad St. 5th Floor

ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT

**Housing and Disability Technical Assistance
Program (TAP)**
**Division of Housing and Community
Development (DHCD)**
(215) 686-9749
1234 Market St., 17th Floor

Liberty Resources
(215) 634-2000
112 N. 8th St. #500

**Pennsylvania Link to Aging and Disability
Resources Center**
(800) 753-8827

Philadelphia Legal Assistance
(215) 981-3838
718 Arch St. Suite 300N

Temple Disability Institute
Voice: (215) 204-1356
TTY: (215) 204-1805
1755 N 13th St.

SEPTA Disability Hotline
(215) 580-7810

REPORTING MECHANISM FOR DEAF/BLIND

National Domestic Violence Deaf Hotline
Video Phone or DeafHotline via instant messenger
(800) 787-3224

REHABILITATION AND RECREATION

**Jefferson Health Magee Rehabilitation
Community Resource Guide**
See MageeRehab.org for resource guide.