



Pre-crisis Planning

- Explore ideas for mobile advocacy centers if feasible: [Mobile Advocacy](#).
- Create a workplan of critical services and plans on how they will continue in the event of office closure or office procedural changes
- Set up phone lines to easily transition to remote services
- Host or identify technology spaces in the community for survivors to access computers
- Partner with local legal services agencies and court administrators to receive updates on court procedures during closures
- Identify reliable sources of updates (the courthouse, governor webpage etc.)
- When safety planning with survivors consider what happens in the event of an emergency
- Provide simple and clear messaging on how you can be reached in times of emergency

Resources to Prepare

Prepare for Virtual Hearings

[Representing Yourself in Virtual Hearings 101](#)

Emergency Safety Planning

[Safety Planning Tool](#)

Custody, Support, and Order of Protection Materials for Representing Yourself

Check your local courthouse website or self-help legal center office to obtain up to date materials for self-represented litigants to utilize to file requests with the court.

Partnerships to Make



Local Legal Services Agency, Sliding Scale Attorneys, Low Bono Attorneys



Medical Providers (Therapeutic, trauma-informed, community health center, substance abuse centers, free or low cost health centers:
[Find a Clinic](#) | [National Association of Free & Charitable Clinics](#))



Law Enforcement (You can ask law enforcement to check on certain survivors when there is a stay at home order or lockdown keeping the survivor with the abuser 24/7)



Benefits (TANF, cash assistance, energy assistance, health insurance, etc.)
Remember: Be aware of impacts on child support and custody.
Refer survivors to legal assistance before applying.



Housing (Hotel vouchers, shelters, family housing, Section 8, etc.)



Child Care (Sliding scale fees, local Headstart, etc.)



Technology Help Centers (Scan devices for tracking, cloud connection, password updates, etc.)

REMINDER:

- You may not be able to provide assistance on all issues your client is facing. Have resources and referrals ready to direct your client to organizations that can help.
- Tailor your plans and documents to your community and the most needed services during that emergency, i.e. flooding, tornado, wildfires, health crisis, etc.

This resource was supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$1.25 million with 100 percent funded by HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HHS, or the U.S. Government.

DISCLAIMER: *This document is for informational purposes only. Nothing contained in this document is intended as legal advice to any person or entity.*