# SHELTER CHECKLISTS

## SHELTER IS A PLACE THAT PROVIDES:

- Safety & protection from violence
- Advocacy to support the personal sovereignty of women
- As many resources as possible to create a non-violent life
- Respectful, non-judgmental support
- Legal, medical and social advocacy
- Accurate information
- Transportation & accompaniment to court & resources
- Confidentiality
- Time and space to rest
- Support to help survivors make decisions
- Support in caring for children
- Freedom for the survivor to choose
- An understanding of battering as a crime, not a personal failure of the woman
- Advocates who believe in women’s abilities to know what they need
- Religious freedom
- Freedom for the survivor to return to the abuser without giving up other rights
- A focus on coordinated community responses to hold batterers and systems accountable to women/survivors who have been battered

## SHELTER SHOULD NOT:

- Charge for services
- Have eligibility requirements other than being in fear of or having been battered
- Require group participation requirements
- Require counseling, treatment plans, or parenting classes
- Tells survivors what to do
- Tells someone they are co-dependent/addicted to love for caring about the batterer or returning
- Share information with other agencies without time limited written consent
- Attempt to reunite families with the batterer or require she divorce him (those are her decisions)
- Use authority to get her to do what the staff thinks is best for her and her children.
- Do mediation or marital counseling
- Attempt to get survivor to see how they provoked the violence
- See battering as caused by a mental health or communication problem
- Do case management or staffing of individual women. Advocates are relatives, not social workers.
- Focus coordinated community response efforts on the behavior of women, but rather the response, policies and procedures of law enforcement, criminal justice system and resource providers.