

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.

