House Sarah Resources

…..transforming the lives of those who come seeking help… 6 Desvouex Road, Suva 6793100665

Of

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**8. Do’s and Don’ts when dealing with a Perpetrator of Family Violence**

**Do:**

1. Place the victim’s safety as the highest priority.

2. Meet him in a public place or in the church with several other people around, if meeting him is appropriate.

3. When not in his presence, pray for him. Ask God to help him stop his violence, choose to change his behaviour and find a new way of living.

4. Understand that he alone is responsible for his behaviour and that being abusive is a CHOICE.

5. Ensure that any actions you take are victim centred and do not lose sight of the abuse he has perpetrated.

6. If he is still in the relationship only speak to him about the abuse if he has been arrested, or his behaviour has been chal­lenged by outside authorities.

7. If he is in no longer in the relationship, only speak to him if his partner is in a safe environment and the abuser is not able to harass her (either personally or electronically by text etc.), and his partner has given you permission to speak to him about his abuse.

8. Maintain awareness of the danger he may pose to you, other people, but especially to the victim, her children and wider family.

9. Research treatment programmes and services to help him change his behaviour.

10. Find ways to collaborate with the police, probation and other services to hold him accountable.

11. Address any religious rationalizations he may offer or ques­tions he may have.

12. Name the abuse as his problem, not hers. Tell him that only he can stop it; and you are willing to help.

13. Take seriously any murder threats he may make and inform the police and, if they involve the victim, her children or fam­ily also inform her.

14. Share any concerns you have with a properly trained profes­sional.

15. Remember domestic abuse is always the responsibility of the perpetrator.

**Don’t:**

1. Go to him to confirm the victim’s story.

2. Meet with him alone and in private. .

3. Approach him or let him know that you know about his violence. If he is to be approached this should be by a trained professional and should be a) with the victim’s permission, b) her awareness that they plan to talk to him and c) certainty that his partner is safely separated from him.

4. Allow him to use religious excuses for his behaviour.

5. Pursue couples’ counselling with him and his partner if you are aware that there is violence in the relationship.

6. Give him any information about his partner or her where­abouts, if she has left him.

7. Be taken in by him minimising the abuse, denying he was abu­sive or lying about the abuse.

8. Accept him blaming the victim, anything or anyone else.

9. Be taken in by his “conversion” experience. If it is genuine, it will be a tremendous resource as he proceeds with accountabil­ity. If it is not genuine, it is only another way to manipulate you and the system and maintain control of the process to avoid accountability.

10. Advocate for the abuser to avoid the legal consequences of his violence.

11. Provide a character witness for any legal proceedings.

12. Forgive an abuser quickly and easily.

13. Confuse his remorse with true repentance.

14. Send him home with a prayer.

**Adapted by the House of Sarah** [**www.houseofsarah.org**](http://www.houseofsarah.org) **for the Pacific context from the Restored Church Kit**



