



## Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

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### Safety Planning with Survivors Who Will Be Speaking to the Media

There are some safety risks involved when a survivor uses her name and/or image in the media. Be sure to safety plan with a survivor before she does anything related to the media to make sure that all her safety concerns are addressed and that she is informed of potential safety risks of speaking to the media:

- Has the survivor considered the safety implications of her name and/or image being used in the media? If she is in hiding from her abuser, will he be able to find her if she does this?
- Does she understand that if her name is used in the media, even if her abuser does not live in her community or even in Minnesota, he may be able to track her location after searching for her name on the Internet?
- Is it possible for the survivor to be quoted using only her first name or do an anonymous print interview with a reporter if her safety is a concern? If it is an on-camera interview, can her identity be obscured?
- If safety is an immediate and pressing concern for the survivor, is there someone else for whom it might be safer to speak to the media?
- You can and should advocate for the survivor with a reporter. After safety planning, make sure the reporter is thoroughly briefed on the survivor's safety needs.
- You can be present for the interview if that will make the survivor more comfortable. If the interview is on-camera, you can sit off-camera to provide support.
- If the reporter violates the survivor's safety ground rules or the survivor begins to feel uncomfortable or upset, let the survivor know she can end the interview.