

SOME DOS AND DON'TS OF ADVOCACY

This document, created by the End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin – Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Legal Department, does not constitute legal advice.

DO remember you are on her side!

DO be sensitive to the differences between different ethnicities, cultures, and social classes.

DO be aware of difference between urban and rural women and their specialized needs (no transportation, fear of going to a “big city”).

DON'T reject the woman's religious beliefs and how they affect her decisions.

DO help her identify her strengths and weaknesses.

DO help her identify how the violence in her life has changed or affected her behavior and her children's behavior.

DO listen to what she does or does not say.

DO encourage assertive behavior.

DON'T convey disappointment if she decides to return to the abuser.

DO help her identify needs, options, and preparation for a future crisis.

DO encourage her efforts to make change.

DO let her know you will help her in the future if she returns to the abuser.