

WHAT IS A SAFETY PLAN?

A SAFETY PLAN IS A PRECAUTIONARY SET OF SAFETY MEASURES THAT YOU CAN PUT INTO PLACE TO HELP YOU ACT QUICKLY IN THE EVENT OF BEING SUBJECTED TO VIOLENCE OR IF YOU FEEL IN DANGER.

<p>You can participate in strengthening programs such as self-defence classes.</p>	<p>If you have been subjected to violence before and there is evidence of it, it is useful to keep this evidence in a safe place or with a trustworthy person.</p>	<p>You can ask women's NGOs for support in preparing a safety plan.</p>
<p>You can prepare a crisis kit containing all your important documents, clothes, medicines, keys, money, address and phone lists for emergencies.</p>	<p>If you have to leave the house in an emergency, you should plan ahead which friend or family member you can stay with. If you are unable to find anyone, you should find out how women's shelters / housing placement process works.</p>	<p>Consider the people that you will be able to ask for help during an emergency, you can also pre-emptively ask your neighbours to call the police if they ever hear any arguments or pleas for help.</p>
<p>You can give a copy of important items, such as your keys and identity documents, to a family member or friend you trust. During an emergency, it will be important for you to have crucial documents such as your identity papers in a place where you can easily access them particularly during the support proceedings.</p>	<p>When preparing a safety plan, have a good look through your home to identify which areas can provide you with protection, which rooms can be locked, which areas have a strong stable phone network signal, and whether it would be suitable to ask for outside help.</p>	<p>You can prepare a list containing the contact details of family and friends and various emergency assistance hotlines who will be able to provide you with urgent help. You can save the emergency contact details included in this brochure and download the KADES application to your mobile phone free of charge.</p>

SOME ORGANISATIONS THAT CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE:

EMERGENCY CALL CENTRE

112

KADES

VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND MONITORING CENTRES (ŞÖNİM)
<https://www.alle.gov.tr/iletisim/bakanlik-iletisim-bilgileri/sonim/>

THE UNION OF BAR ASSOCIATIONS
<https://www.barobirlik.org.tr/Barolar>

LEGAL SUPPORT AND VICTIM SERVICES DIRECTORATES
<https://magdur.adalet.gov.tr/Home/harita>

TOGETHER WE STAND IN THE FIGHT OPPOSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Roadmap to Seeking Justice

This leaflet was last updated in December 2022.

THE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES THAT CAN BE TAKEN UNDER THE SCOPE OF LAW NO. 6284 ON THE PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY AND THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ALL ITS RELATING LEGISLATION INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

PROTECTIVE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

These are the decisions made by the authorities regarding the protection of the victim and, if any, their children.

POLICE
GENDARMERIE
GOVERNOR
DISTRICT GOVERNOR

- You can request **accommodation**.
- If you believe your life is under threat, you can request **temporary protection**.

GOVERNOR
DISTRICT GOVERNOR

- You can request temporary **financial assistance**.
- You can request psychological, professional, legal and social **guidance and counselling services**.
- If you fulfill certain criteria, you can request **daycare support for any children** under your care.

COURT

- You can request a **change of your workplace**.
- If you are married, you can request a **separate accommodation** be arranged so you will no longer have to share the same household.
- If certain criteria are fulfilled, and upon your request, a **family residence annotation** may be placed at the land registry.

Note: When the family residence annotation is issued, your spouse cannot make any purchase, sale or mortgage transactions related to the residence without your knowledge.

- If there is a threat to your life and it is understood that other measures will not be sufficient to prevent this danger, a decision may be taken to **change your identity and other relevant information**, with your consent.

Note: If you have been granted a protection order and you cannot benefit from any health insurance, you can access healthcare using a general health insurance irrespective of income.

YOU CAN CONTACT A LAWYER TO RECEIVE LEGAL SUPPORT.

If you fulfil certain criteria, you could benefit from free legal aid. The legal aid application form can be accessed via the E-Gov (E-Devlet) website.

PREVENTIVE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

These are the decisions taken to prevent the perpetrator from committing any violent behaviour.

POLICE
GENDARMERIE
COURT

- The perpetrator to be prevented from engaging in any words or behaviours that would be construed as threatening, insulting, humiliating or belittling.
- The perpetrator to be removed immediately from any shared residence or location. The shared residence to be allocated to you.
- The perpetrator to be prohibited from approaching your residence, school or workplace.
- If deemed necessary, the perpetrator to be prohibited from approaching you, your relatives, witnesses, and your children, without prejudice to situations related to the establishment of personal relationships.

COURT

- If any previous court decisions granted the perpetrator child visitation rights, the children to be accompanied by a chaperone during these interactions. Additionally, these visitation rights can be limited or completely denied.
- The perpetrator to be prohibited from damaging your belongings or items in the property.
- To not distress you by trying to contact you or by any other means.
- To surrender all legally permitted weapons carried by him or under his possession to law enforcement.
- Ban his consumption of alcohol, drugs or stimulants in close proximity to you, or to prohibit him from approaching you or your children whilst under the influence of these substances.
- If diagnosed with a substance addiction, the perpetrator to be provided with treatments and examination, including but not limited to hospitalisation.
- The perpetrator to participate in a rehabilitative program, particularly one that provides anger management services.

In life threatening circumstances, you can request that the police, gendarmerie, ŞÖNİM or the court issue electronic monitoring to guarantee the effective implementation of these measures.

1

WHAT CAN YOU DO AGAINST THE PROBABILITY OF VIOLENCE?

- Be informed of the **different forms of violence** and what each of these entail.
- Be aware of and pay close attention **to the different signs and indicators of violence**. Without being aware you might already be in an abusive cycle.
- Know your **rights**.
- Identify the **NGOs** that support women.
- If you have **any dependents or anyone under your care** (children, elderly, etc.) consider making a **safety plan** that also takes them into consideration.
- If you have a smartphone, download the **KADES mobile application**.



2

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO DURING OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER BEING SUBJECTED TO VIOLENCE?

- **Try to immediately remove yourself** from the environment where you are experiencing violence and commence putting **your safety plan into action**.
- **Call the emergency services**. When you call 112 they will ask for certain information such as your telephone number, your address and your reason for calling.



- If you have **just experienced sexual or physical assault**, contact your nearest **healthcare provider, the police or gendarmerie, or the public prosecutor's office (Cumhuriyet savcılığı)** to avoid any loss of evidence.
- **You can apply to the Bar Association in your province for legal aid**. The Bar Association is a professional association of lawyers located in each province. Contact details and other information on the Bar Association can be found on the Union of Turkish Bar Associations' website (www.barobirlik.org.tr). When you contact your local Bar Association a lawyer will provide you with all the necessary guidance to take urgent measures.
- When you seek assistance from the police, gendarmerie or public prosecutor's office, **you can request that a lawyer be appointed** by the Bar Association. You can request a copy of your statement after the interviews.
- If you are unable to contact or visit a healthcare facility **you can make a record of the physical evidence of the violence by taking photographs or videos** and present these to the authorities. Make sure that your face is visible in all the images and videos you take.
- **If you have been subjected to sexual assault, contact the police, gendarmerie or public prosecutor's office as soon as possible without washing any part of your body so that no evidence is lost or contaminated**. If you were wearing clothes at the time of the incident, these will be taken into evidence after the examination, so make sure to bring spare clothes with you.
- If you seek assistance directly from a healthcare facility, be sure to inform the relevant persons that you have been assaulted and **request that a forensic medical examination be performed and a forensic medical report is issued**.
- If the assault included consuming drugs or medical substances without your consent or awareness, express this suspicion at the medical facility and **request blood and urine tests**.

3

HOW CAN YOU ATTAIN JUSTICE?

How can you take legal action?



- The criminal investigation and prosecution processes after being subjected to violence are in some circumstances contingent on you filing a complaint and meeting specific deadlines. **You can seek legal advice by contacting a lawyer to ensure that you do not lose your rights**. If your financial situation is not sufficient and you fulfil the criteria, you can receive legal aid and benefit from free support at the bar association in your vicinity.



- If you choose to first contact the police, gendarmerie, or public prosecutor's office for assistance, **you can request that a lawyer be appointed to you by the bar association**.

- If you choose first to contact the bar association, the lawyer that may be appointed to your case will guide you on how to approach the police or gendarmerie to file a complaint. When you visit the police or gendarmerie, you can request that they **provide you with a copy of your statement and state that this is your legal right under Law No. 6284**.

- You can also seek assistance from **the public prosecutor's office** at your local courthouse instead of **the police or gendarmerie**. You can get information by contacting the courthouse's **Legal Support and Victim Services Directorate**.

- The authorities you meet will direct you to the **Violence Prevention and Monitoring Centre (ŞÖNİM)** in your province so that you can receive additional support during the proceedings that follow after filing a complaint.

- You can also request an injunction is made for your children.



What can you do regarding your housing/shelter and financial support needs?



- You can get information from **Alo 183, ŞÖNİM, Alo 144 or any civil society organization** that support women survivors of violence.

- **For housing assistance** they will direct you towards ŞÖNİM or your local municipality's shelter services.



- **Regarding financial aid**, you can apply for assistance with **the Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation** in your province or via the **E-Gov (E-Devlet)** website.



- Alternatively, you can seek assistance at your **municipality's women's advice and social support centres**.

What should you do for divorce, alimony, and custody cases?



- **Lawyers can provide you with legal support**. If your financial resources are limited and you meet specific criteria, you could be eligible to receive free legal aid from the bar association near you.

- You can access information regarding all **the documents required to apply for legal aid** by contacting the bar association in your province or via the Union of Bar Associations' website.

- You can access **the application form for state-provided legal aid** via the e-devlet website or from the Legal Support and Victim Services Directorate at your local courthouse.

What can you do in the long-term / how can you be self-sufficient?



- **If needed, ŞÖNİM can direct you towards vocational training programs**. Your progress and results will be monitored by ŞÖNİM who can also guide you in finding employment.

- Civil society organisations and municipal women's support centres can offer you **free psychological counselling support** when requested.



- **You can apply to İŞKUR** to find employment.

