

Final Script

1	<p>In PEI, as in the rest of Canada, any form of violence is not okay. It is not acceptable if you are harmed by someone who is supposed to love and care for you. There are laws to protect you from physical, emotional, and sexual violence. If you are feeling threatened and unsafe in your home there is help for you. There are trained people who will understand your situation and can work with you. In Canada it is a human right that everyone lives free from violence.</p>
2	<p>It is against Canadian law to physically or sexually hurt other family members. It is called “assault”. Threatening to hurt other members of the family may also be an offence. Your husband cannot do whatever he wants just because he is in the privacy of his home. Although people may tell you that it is your duty to obey your husband and stay with him, in Canada all forms of woman abuse are wrong.</p>
3	<p>Canadian born, immigrant, and refugee women share this problem. It happens to many women of all ages, religions, cultural backgrounds and incomes. You are not alone.</p>
4	<p>There is help for Women abused by their husbands or another member of their family: The law and the police can help you Victim Services can give you information and help you in your contacts with police, the courts and other services you might need. You can get away from the abuse by going to Anderson House, a safe place for women and children Family Violence Prevention Services can help you</p>
5	<p>You can call the police if someone is hurting you or the children by calling 911 They will come to your house. They will talk to your family. They may lay charges of assault against the abuser. If the assault is serious, they may arrest the abuser. They can apply for an Emergency Protection Order for you, or they can take you to a safe place. If you can’t speak English, police will try and arrange translation services.</p>
6	<p>If your partner or another person in your family is hurting you or causing you to be afraid, you may qualify for an Emergency Protection Order. An Emergency Protection Order may allow you to stay in your home with your children, while the person who is hurting you has to leave the home. A Victim Services Worker or Police Officer can apply for the order if they believe that harm has happened or will happen. You can also ask about an Emergency Protection Order if you are at Anderson House, staying with a friend, or even if the person no longer lives with you but is causing you fear.</p>
7	<p>With an Emergency Protection Order - you can continue to live in your home if it is safe, and the person who is hurting you must stay away from you. The person may have to continue paying the rent or mortgage, and you may be given temporary custody of your children.</p>

8	<p>You can call Victim Services for information and help with Emergency Protection Orders. Charlottetown office: (902) 368-4582, Summerside office: (902) 888-8218. Victim Services can also help you through the legal process if the abuser has been arrested and charged with assault. They will make sure you understand your rights and explain everything to you.</p>
9	<p>PEI Family Violence Prevention Services has an emergency shelter called Anderson House. If you are abused and need a safe place to go to immediately, Anderson House may be able to help. It is an emergency shelter for women and their children who are leaving abusive relationships. Anderson House serves women and children in need across Prince Edward Island. The shelter is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you might need to leave your home for safety, call Anderson House for help making a safety plan. The phone number for Anderson House is 902-892-0960 or toll free 1-800-240-9894. If you are in an emergency situation and are unsafe call the police at 911.</p>
10	<p>Anderson House is a large older home in downtown Charlottetown. The shelter can accommodate up to 18 women and children. The shelter is a safe, supportive, and friendly space. Each woman at Anderson House is generally given their own bedroom. If you have children that come into shelter with you, they generally share your bedroom with you. The rest of the house is shared with the other residents staying there. This includes the kitchen, bathrooms and laundry room.</p>
11	<p>In order to maintain the comfort and safety of everyone in shelter, we do have some guidelines to follow at Anderson House. No form of abuse is allowed. All residents, staff members and visitors will be treated with respect and dignity. No alcohol, illegal drugs or weapons are allowed in Anderson House. Residents are free to come and go from the shelter. Curfew is 10 pm. The maximum length of stay at Anderson House is generally 3 weeks.</p>
12	<p>The phone number for Anderson House is also a crisis line. Even if you are not looking to come into shelter, you can still call for help about abuse. All abuse is serious including verbal, emotional, physical, sexual and financial abuse. When you call the crisis line, staff will give you support and information, as well as referrals to other kinds of help.</p>
13	<p>PEI Family Violence Prevention Services also provides Outreach services in all regions across Prince Edward Island. Workers provide information, support and advocacy for women victims of violence. You can find the phone numbers for the Outreach offices on our website at www.fvps.ca or by calling Anderson House.</p>
14	<p>For some women it is necessary to leave their home and find different housing in order to be safe. If you are staying at Anderson House, or are working with one of our Outreach Workers, you may be able to apply to one of our safe houses, called Second Stage. Second Stage Housing is where women and their children are able to move from Anderson House or from their previous home to independent apartment living. The apartments are safe and secure. Families are able to remain in the units for up to a year. Tenants pay affordable rent for these apartments.</p>

15	If you are a woman and live in fear, you are not alone. PEI Family Violence Prevention Services are there to help.