

## What is Family Violence?

Family violence is when a parent, child, spouse, common-law, romantic partner, ex-partner or other relative hurts you with violence.

This violence may include:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Financial abuse
- Threats against you or others
- Harassment
- Damaging your property or harming your pets

## What is a Family Violence Shelter?

The NWT Family Violence Shelters are 24 hour, short-term emergency shelters for women, and their children, who are victims of family violence.

**If you or your children are in immediate danger, call the RCMP. They can ensure that you are safe; then you can call the shelter if you want.**

## Who can go to the shelter?

Women in the NWT who are experiencing family violence can go to a shelter. If there is no shelter in your community or region, your Health and Social Services Authority may provide you with a free return air ticket to the nearest family violence shelter. If you have children, they can go with you to the shelter.

## How do I go to the shelter?

If you want to go to a family violence shelter, you can call one of the telephone numbers on the back of this pamphlet. You can call at any time of any day. A shelter worker will provide you with more information and instructions.

## What will happen to me at the shelter?

At the shelter, you and your children will get your own room. You can get support from the shelter workers if you want to talk to someone. The shelter workers will talk to you about family violence and may give you information about other services like community counselling, income support and how to apply for housing. It is up to you whether you use these services.

## How long do I have to stay?

You only stay at the shelter as long as you want. The maximum length of stay is usually six weeks, but you can leave whenever you like. It is up to you what you do after you leave the shelter. Before you leave, a shelter worker can help you make a safety plan for yourself and your children.

## What if I'm experiencing family violence, but I don't want to stay at the shelter?

Shelter workers at the family violence shelters can give you support over the phone and help you to make a safety plan. If you live near a shelter, you can also go there for drop-in support without staying overnight.

If you or your children are in danger, you may be able to get an **EPO (Emergency Protection Order)** so that you can stay in your home safely. If you would like an EPO, call your local RCMP or YWCA Alison McAteer House.

# NWT Family Violence Shelters



## **How many times can I go to a shelter?**

There is no limit to the number of times you can go to a shelter. If you are experiencing family violence, you have the right to go to a shelter.

## **Do I need to talk to the RCMP?**

No. The NWT Family Violence Shelters respect your choices. If you do not want to report the violence or charge the person hurting you, you can still go to the shelter. The shelter worker may ask you if you want to call the RCMP, but it is your choice.

## **Will Social Services take my kids away if I go to a shelter?**

Shelter workers will only call Social Services if they think your child has been hurt by someone. This does not mean that your children will be taken into care. It means that Social Services will be able to make sure that your children are safe and can get help or counselling if they have been hurt. Taking your children with you to the shelter is a sign that you are a good parent who cares about their safety.

## **Family Violence Shelters**

### **CALL COLLECT**

#### **YWCA Alison McAteer House**

Yellowknife

Phone: 1-867-873-8257

Toll Free: 1-866-223-7775

#### **Family Support Centre**

Hay River

Phone: 1-867-874-6626

#### **Sutherland House**

Fort Smith

Phone: 1-867-872-4133

Toll Free: 1-877-872-5925

#### **Inuvik Transition House**

Inuvik

Phone: 1-867-777-3877

#### **Aimayunga Women and Emergency Foster Care Shelter**

Tuktoyaktuk

Phone 1-867-977-2000



We have information for women who are experiencing family violence.