



RI's Address Confidentiality Program (A.C.P.)

A Program through the Office of the R.I. Secretary of State

SAFETY PLANNING & EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ADVOCACY

- Recognizes power and control as the basis of domestic violence
- Respects confidentiality
- Includes listening without judgment and meeting victims where they are
- Validates their experience
- Respects victims' autonomy and supports their ability to make choices for themselves
- Includes helping to identify options and supporting their decisions; RI's A.C.P. is one such option
- Helps to restore dignity, control, and confidence



SAFETY PLANNING

A safety plan is a practical plan intended to increase a victim's safety

Creating a safety plan is a guided process, led by the victim

Remember, empowerment is the goal

Different for every survivor and every situation, A.C.P. included

Can include elements of physical and emotional/mental safety

Can include children, pets, family, friends (family covered in A.C.P.)

Is the A.C.P. is the best option for the survivor?

Acknowledge that they are in a very difficult and scary situation

Listen and remain non-judgmental.

Emphasize that no one deserves to be hurt or abused.

Support their decisions, whether they are planning to leave the relationship or not.

Encourage them to participate in activities outside of the relationship.

Help them develop a safety plan. Does abusive party know their current address?

Refer to the A.C.P via RI Sec. of State Office if it is appropriate for them.

Can they safely handle a mail delay, service of process for legal documents via PO Box?

Suggest that they contact friends, family, businesses to notify them of the new protected address.

Help them connect with a hotline and/or DV agency. Stay connected.

What if a program participant wants to receive magazines, packages, etc.?


- A.C.P. only forwards first-class mail, prescriptions, and service of process. If a participant wants to receive a package or magazine, it is recommended to use a trusted family or friend's address for delivery purposes, or Mail Boxes, Etc./UPS, or other mailbox service.

Remember, the purpose of being a participant in the A.C.P. is to minimize the amount of people that know where the survivor actually lives.

- The program participant should request that all the agencies, from which they receive services, accept the substitute address. Make a list of such agencies to contact to update with the new safe PO Box address.
- Although private companies do not have to accept the substitute address, many businesses are willing to do so. Ask them.

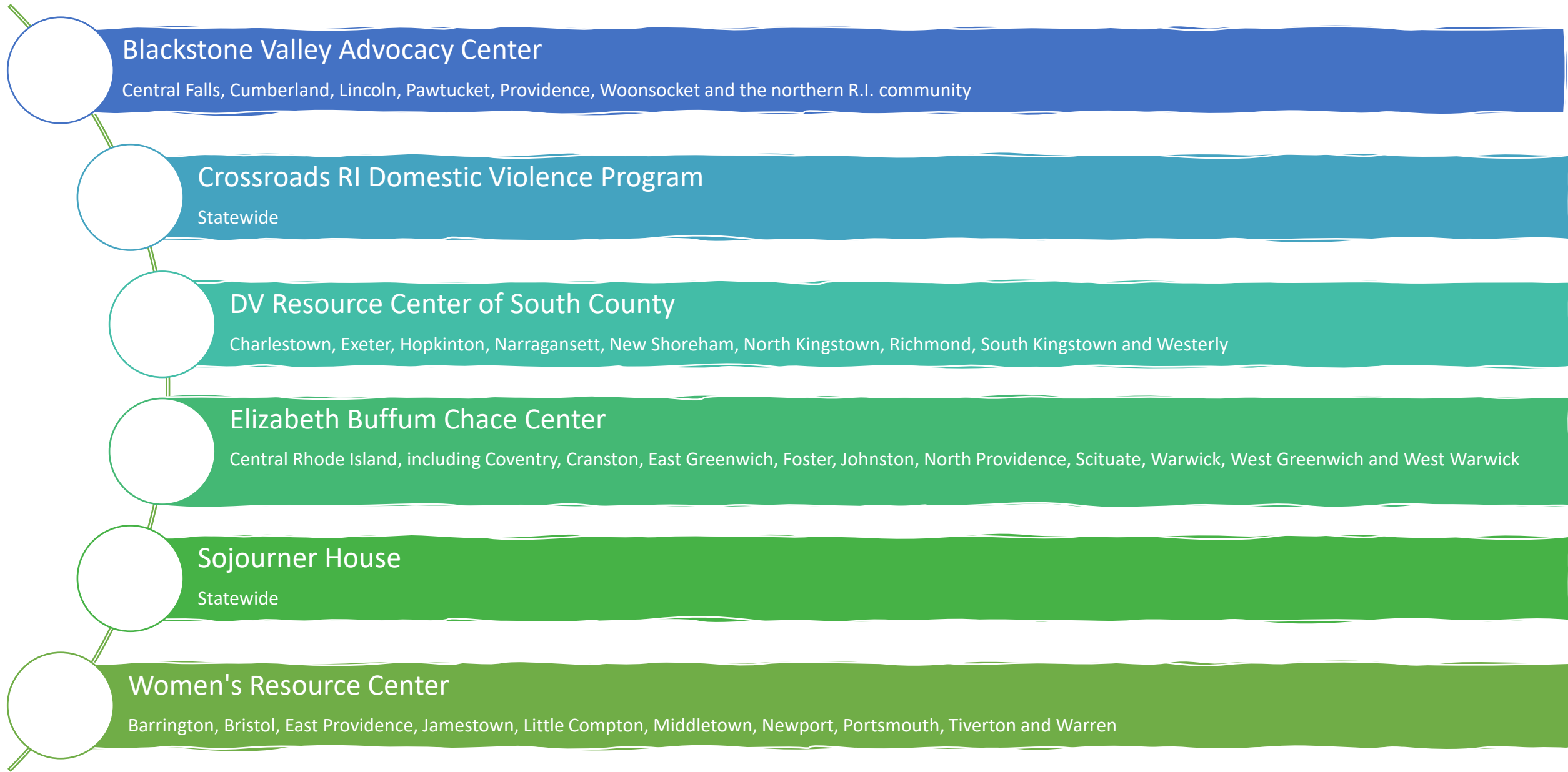
How can a participant keep their address confidential with the utility companies and other agencies that require a physical address?

- The phone company, oil company and power utility all need to know where the home is for service purposes and, therefore, require an actual address. Participants should speak with the customer service supervisor to make special arrangements to provide for a level of confidentiality. For example, they may agree to use an alias name in the company database to prohibit access of a participant's actual name and address.
- The RI DMV and other state agencies will accept the substitute address. Important to notify the A.C.P. for any changes of address, name, phone number, email ASAP



Can someone apply for the program if they are living in a shelter?

- Since the application form requires an actual physical address, it is not practical to apply while in a shelter because most shelter addresses are confidential. Once the applicant has secured safe housing to which they can relocate, they can complete the application form even if they will be living in the shelter for a few more days.
- For example, if the applicant knows they will be moving to 10 Main Street in a week, they can complete an application form while in the shelter, and by the time they are living at the new residence, they will likely have received all the program materials to begin using the substitute address. Call the A.C.P. to discuss this.



R.I.'s Address Confidentiality Program

Contact the R.I. Department of State



- Email: acp@sos.ri.gov
 - Phone: 401-222-2357
 - In-person: 148 W. River St., Providence, RI
- Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

For additional info and to download the application, visit:
<https://www.sos.ri.gov/AddressConfidentialityProgram>



Thank you!

Keep up-to-date with the latest resources at www.ricadv.org.



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