

ABUSE SCREENING PROCEDURES FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES¹

- ◆ **Offer support in completing the screening tool and allow the woman to decide if she wants it.**
- ◆ **Be sure to be alone with the woman in a confidential location, not accompanied by her personal assistant, guardian, driver, spouse, parent, or other support person.**
- ◆ **Talking with the woman without her personal assistant may bring about suspicion, anger or resentment from the personal assistant, and increase the risk of harm for her. Understand the dynamics of asking the support person to leave the room. Discuss these dynamics with the woman.**
- ◆ **Tell the woman if you are a mandated reporter before beginning the screening process, and explain the reporting procedures if she discloses abuse.**
- ◆ **Pause during the screening procedures to ask the woman how she is doing; check in with how she is feeling.**
- ◆ **Following the screening process, offer the woman supports, resources, and domestic violence referrals, regardless of her disclosure. Explain that this information is important to many women, and encourage her to share the resource information with others.**

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