

2.1 Woman's Factual Data Log

Woman's Factual Data Log is adapted from the Personal Information Journal, included in *The Region of Peel Women Abuse Protocol: Best Practice Guidelines*. It was developed by a group of women who have experienced abuse in the past, and is meant to assist women who find themselves in a similar situation.

The Data Log is intended to be a tool a woman can use to collect and maintain important information for her own records. It also allows a woman to have personal information documented in one place. The tool is especially useful because women who are navigating the system will meet many people (counselors, lawyers, doctors) at various points in the process. The Data Log may also help to decrease the stress a woman may feel when asked to repeat the details of her story.

To be effective in court proceedings, the *Woman's Factual Data Log* **must** be a factual account of the abuse and other pertinent information. It is not intended to be a personal journal. If a woman wishes to keep a personal journal or diary, with her thoughts and feelings, she is encouraged to keep it separate from the Data Log and to keep it confidential. **If others become aware that the woman has a personal journal or diary, it could be subpoenaed for use in court.**

The woman may want to use the Data Log to keep information on the abuse, what happened during each incident, injuries and witnesses, and to note police activity. Photographs and a log of threats made to her, her children, and others may be included in the Data Log. She may also want to inform her doctor about the abuse and ask that it be included in her medical records. Any documentation of the abuse that she is able to get and keep will help her after she leaves the relationship and if there is a problem with support, custody or other legal matters.

Service providers should advise women interested in using the *Woman's Factual Data Log* to keep it in a safe place, which only she has access to, in order to protect her privacy and confidentiality. Service providers should also encourage the woman to consult with her counselor as to where to keep the *Woman's Factual Data Log* and with whom she might share it.

The *Woman's Factual Data Log*, included as Appendix A, is divided into nine parts, including:

- Partner Information
- Police Occurrences Report
- Legal Information
- Medical Data
- Other Important Contacts
- History of Abuse
- Record of Abusive Incidents
- Creating a Safety Plan
- Other Relevant Information