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Why Some DV Shelters Need To Reconsider Their Policies

By Survivors United Against Domestic Violence – SUADV

As a former resident in many DV shelters across the USA and, a former staff member, it has

become easy to assess why some shelters' success rate is very low. Furthermore, through listening to other residents and sharing our mutual concerns, I have come to the conclusion that the policies in effect in most DV shelters are unsuitable for DV survivors.

I believe that the originators of DV shelters had the best of intentions and just by setting up facilities for women and children to seek haven from the abuser/batterer, they have made a great contribution to developing awareness and better understanding of domestic violence. However, as pioneers, they lacked an appropriate model to follow so they designed their system based on the only shelters available at the time: homeless shelters.

Nevertheless, many years have gone by since the inception of DV shelters and much has been learnt about the particular issues affecting this specific social group. Yet, most DV shelters are still following the old model and, some, have even added characteristics that emulate correctional facilities. In doing so, they "inadvertently" keep victimizing DV survivors and contributing to the "blaming the victim" mentality. Thus, rendering their system ineffective.

* DV survivors are not criminals/inmates.

* They are not responsible for the abuse. It is their abuser/batterer the one that has made a choice to resort to tyranny and victimization.

* DV survivors are not the problem; the abuser/batterer is.

* DV survivors deserve to be heard and treated with dignity and respect regardless of their shortcomings.

* DV survivors are not inept or stupid. They've managed to survive, haven't they?

* Not all DV survivors are mentally ill, alcoholics, or drug addicts.

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* DV survivors do not need to be treated like children and/or in a condescending way. They abuser did that to them for years.

* DV survivors need to be part of the solution and regain control over their lives and choices.

The current status quo regarding DV survivors vs. abusers/batterers is one of punishment. Our system and society expects DV survivors to be the ones to turn their life around, abandon everything, live in shelters, give up most of their rights and freedom, instead of the abuser/batterer. In doing so, we are punishing the victims. These expectations are so outrageous that they are equivalent to putting rape victims in jail or prison while letting the rapist run rampant in our communities.

Therefore, as DV survivors, we have come to the conclusion that this situation and status quo will perpetuate ad nauseam unless we, the affected parties, take control and take action. Thus, Survivors

United Against Domestic Violence (SUADV) was born. We are certain that just like groups such as MADD, we will make the big difference regarding this issue. Join us.

About The Author

Barbara is the founder and CEO of Survivors United Against Domestic Violence. She is also a successful entrepreneur and writer. However, her main mission is to assist other survivors with rebuilding their lives in a non-shelter environment and produce significant changes in the judicial and social system regarding DV issues. If you are interested in collaborating with this organization's goals and efforts, visit their website at

<http://suadv.org>

and join their mailing list.

Barbara is the founder and CEO of Survivors United Against Domestic Violence – SUADV – a not-for-profit corporation run by DV survivors for DV survivors.

<http://suadv.org>

Is It Time To Reconsider Your Automotive Insurance Policy?

By Elizabeth Newberry

Americans are a busy group of people, and once we take care of something, such as purchasing automotive insurance, we tend to forget about it and move on to the next task. However, purchasing an automotive insurance policy only to neglect it could end up costing you more money in the long run, or even leaving you unprotected. There are times in our lives when we need to stop and evaluate our current automotive insurance policies.

Why Some DV Shelters Need To Reconsider Their Policies

Reconsider your automotive insurance policy when you get married. When two people get married, they can get an automotive insurance policy together, thus spending less money and possibly even getting additional discounts.

Reconsider your automotive insurance policy if you purchase a new car. If you've borrowed money from a lender to purchase your new car, chances are your lender will require you to purchase full coverage insurance. Even if your lender doesn't, your state most likely will. If your automotive insurance policy only covers liability because you own one of your cars, or the car you traded in, you need to increase the coverage of your automotive insurance policy.

Reconsider your automotive insurance policy if you relocate. If you currently live in a quaint little country town that sees very little wrongdoing aside from the occasional cow-tipping, you probably don't have a very high amount of automotive insurance. However, if you're moving to a larger city with a higher crime rate, your car will be more at risk and you should make sure you add the extra coverage.

Reconsider your automotive insurance policy if you're getting on in years. Most insurance companies offer discounts to policyholders who are a certain age - usually 55 years old. If this is you, give your agent a call and find out about discounts you may qualify for.

Remember, certain tasks are worth completing and forgetting. Taking out the trash is one of them; purchasing automotive insurance is not.

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