Interactions with Abusers

III. In-Person Lessons

- Confidentiality & Communication Scenarios:

Sheila has been in a relationship with Dan for four years and his abusive behaviors have been escalating over the past year. She fled from Dan and arrived at shelter a week ago. Today, Dan calls the hotline and speaks with a concerned tone and sounds tearful. He says he is heartbroken and trying to find his life partner, Sheila, who left him recently and he is desperatly trying to find her to make sure she is alright and that she has the medications she needs. He says he has been calling all over town looking for her and if he can’t find her he is going to make a missing persons report with the police.

Cannot confirm or deny if someone is accessing services with this organization.

Follow up by informing Sheila that Dan contacted the hotline and may make a missing persons report. Inform Sheila about confidentiality requirements and the organization’s policies about communication with law enforcement.

Seth has a 6-year-old child with their partner, Lila, and both of them are listed on the child’s birth certificate. Seth came to shelter with their child two nights ago, because they were scared of Lila’s controlling behaviors threats to run away with their child. Lila contacts the hotline and says they know Seth is at the shelter with their child and that they are worried about Seth being an unfit parent because their child has been out of school for two days. Lila states that they are also concerned about Seth harming their child and they plan to contact child protective services to inform them of Seth’s harmful parenting behaviors. Lila also threatens to find the shelter and wait outside to see Seth and their child.

Cannot confirm or deny if someone is accessing services with this organization.

Follow up by informing Seth about Lila contacting the hotline and possibly making a CPS report. Discuss safety planning related to Lila searching for Seth and their child.