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### *Central Alberta Women’s Emergency Shelter*

### Theme: Safety Planning

Central Alberta Women’s Emergency Shelter (CAWES) provides a broad range of programs and services including safe, secure, emergency accommodation. Women can remain at CAWES for a maximum stay of 21 days (unless extenuating circumstances) with a licensed occupancy of 40 beds. All services are free. Food, personal items, non-prescription drugs, and transportation are also provided. The core focus of the shelter is to keep women safe, and, to this end, CAWES has developed an “If I don’t return on time” protocol.

#### Critical Elements

* The protocol is developed immediately upon intake into CAWES programming and is part of the agency’s initial involvement with the woman. It may also become revaluated to reflect change in woman’s circumstances.
* The protocol gives a full control to the woman in how he would like the shelter to respond should she not return to the shelter on time and provides an opportunity to consider complex dynamics involved in keeping women safe from violence. Shelter staff then know when they should or when they should not contact the authorities.
* The woman identifies several key people whom she would like the staff to call should she not return when expected.
* The protocol helps keep women safe while also empowering her to make decisions that work for her.
* The protocol supports woman’s continued engagement and relationship building with shelter staff and provides an opportunity for the staff to connect with people who are important in the woman’s life and support their safety if necessary.