

## **What to Take When Planning to Leave**

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When you leave, whether you believe it will be for a short time or for good, be sure to take the following items:

- Driver's License or Dept. of Motor Vehicles ID Card
- Money, Checkbooks, Credit Cards
- Keys
- Medications
- Address Book, Cell Phones
- Green Card(s), Immigration Verification

If there is time, take as many of the following as you can. You may not be able to go back later to get them:

- Birth Certificates for you and your children
- Pink Slip to your car
- Lease, Rental Agreement, or House Deed
- Bank Books
- Insurance Papers and Cards
- Small Salable Objects
- Medical Records (for the whole family)
- Social Security Cards
- School Records
- Passport(s)
- Jewelry, Pictures, and other heirlooms
- Welfare Identification, Work Permits
- Divorce Papers
- Children's Favorite Toys or Blankets
- A Change of Clothing for you and your children

If you are thinking of leaving, make sure these items are easily accessible. Consider putting them together in one place where you can get them in a hurry.

Remember, legally you may take anything that belongs to you alone and anything that belongs to you and your husband together. You can withdraw money you have in a joint checking account with your husband or partner. You may not take anything that belongs only to your husband or partner. You may not destroy property that belongs to both of you or only to your husband or partner.

If you do not get everything you need when you leave, ask the police to escort you back to your house later to pick up items. The police will wait only a few minutes and will only allow you to take things that obviously belong to you or your children, such as clothing. Or, you can wait until your husband or partner goes to work or leaves the home for some other reason, and then goes into the house to get what you need. However, if you do go back and your husband or partner will not let you in, the police probably cannot force him to let you in without a court order.