



March 25th, 2020

Important Safety Tips regarding COVID-19

In spite of the current COVID-19 crisis, The Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies, Inc. (C.A.R.E.) is open to house and serve domestic violence victims and their families in our emergency shelter.

As responsible community members, we are being asked to stay in our homes and to practice social distancing as much as is practical. For some people who are living with an abuser, home is not a safe place for their families. **Call the C.A.R.E. Hotline at 941-627-6000 to speak with an advocate to make a safety plan for your situation.**

Some tips that might be helpful follow:

- *Keep your phone charged at all times and memorize important phone numbers*
- *Pack an emergency bag and hide it; pack cash, keys, original or copies of Identification documents, & prescription medicines*
- *Create a safe word or signal with a trusted neighbor or friend that lets them know to call law enforcement for you*
- *Plan an escape route and teach it to your children*
- *Be aware of rooms you are in and where the exits are located*
- *Try to avoid being in the same room as the abuser if weapons are present*

If you are in immediate danger, call

911

C.A.R.E. Hotline 941-627-6000

Englewood 941-475-6465

Updates from COVID-19

- *Charlotte County has closed all county buildings to the public as of 5pm March 24, 2020. Officially closing our reuse stores. We will let everyone know when we are able reopen.*
- **Stewart Butterfield, co-founder of Slack, announced on Twitter that he will provide a 5 to 1 match on any gift up to \$250,000 in support of domestic violence organizations. If you want to help C.A.R.E. and get a 5:1 match on your personal donation, make a gift at**

<https://carefl.org/giving/donate/>

Then forward your gift receipt email to

matching@rubiobutterfield.org