

## **WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES**

### **Women with Intellectual and Learning Disabilities**

Women with intellectual and learning disabilities can be very vulnerable to abuse because they often have limited life experience, sometimes live isolated and restricted lives, and are likely to be dependent on others.

Limited literacy skills, difficulty with comprehension and understanding of certain concepts and difficulty recalling events can often significantly affect their ability to access the criminal justice system.

#### **SERVICES:**

1. Pathways to Independence
2. Counselling Services of Belleville & District – Adult Protective Services
3. Trenton Association for Community Living
4. Plainfield Community Homes
5. Community Visions & Networking

### **Women with Mental Health Issues**

Women with mental health issues can be very vulnerable to abuse as they are not often able to access appropriate supports and services. A woman who has received a psychiatric diagnosis may fear that if she reports abuse that she will not be believed and she may be sent to a hospital or institution.

#### **SERVICES:**

1. Quinte Health Care - Crisis Intervention Team  
- Mental Health Clinic
2. Counselling Services of Belleville & District - Individual, Marital and Family  
Counselling
3. Canadian Mental Health Association
4. Mental Health Services

### **Women with Physical Disabilities**

Women with physical disabilities are vulnerable to abuse because they are more dependent on a larger number of people for their care, and are less able to get away from their abuser. The abuser limits the woman's ability by denying her access to proper medical attention, resources, and medical aids to support independent functioning. The woman may be unable to report abuse because of her disability, therefore it becomes

important to be observant to changes in physical health, and behavior and consider alternative strategies for communicate i.e. drawing etc.

**SERVICES:**

1. Cheshire Homes – Attendant Care
2. South East Community Care Access Centre
3. Canadian Association of Independent Living Centres
4. Disabled Women’s Network (DAWN)

**For More Information on Women with Disabilities, See:**

Violence Against Women with Disabilities

[www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/pdfs/2005femdisabl\\_e.pdf](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/pdfs/2005femdisabl_e.pdf)

Tips for Women’s Service Providers Working with Women with Disabilities

<http://www.womanabuseprevention.com/DisTips.pdf>

Violence Against Women with Disabilities annotated bibliography – DAWN

<http://dawn.thot.net/project2.html>