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Corporate Association for Domestic Violence

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"Domestic Violence Experts for over 20 Years"

\*A why allowed in court w/out subpoena

\*B confidentiality

Many times I have gone to court and the (A) who has <sup>had</sup> emotional control over the victim for many years will try to intimidate her or alter her behavior.

He will glare at her to keep her quiet or cry and look passively at her to make her feel guilty. As an advocate I can point out those behaviors and sometimes all the victim needs is someone on her side to give her the strength to advocate for herself.

I went to divorce court with a woman who had been severely battered for over 10 years. The batterer's attorney asked for a closed hearing, I was asked to leave the courtroom. The judge set up temporary custody and visitation. She was living in

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ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY

DATE: 3/10/03 ROOM: 3138 EXHIBIT

SUBMITTED BY: MARY TERZIAN

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a transitional housing apartment for battered women. The judge ordered that the abuser could pick the children up that night at her apartment. That night he battered her and she lost her housing because he knew where it was. If he had been allowed to remain in the courtroom he would have been able to point out how dangerous it was for the abuser to pick the children up at her apartment.

In terms of confidentiality, many times when women come into shelter they talk to me, as I am an advocate. They speak of their anger, their pain and their loss when a woman comes into shelter many times she is overwhelmed with feelings that she has not been allowed to feel. What she tells me is in a very specific context because she knows that if

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am on her side. And she also knows that what she tells me is confidential. She needs to know that she can be completely honest with me and in order for her to do that she must know that our conversations are confidential.

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