

FIELD SAFETY CHECKLIST

PRIOR TO THE HOME VISIT

- Read the client assessment, research risk factors, and review case history
- Determine if coworker, supervisor, or law enforcement support is needed
- Coordinate with office staff so they know where you will be and for how long
- Familiarize yourself with your destination, routing, and safe havens
- Study the neighborhood and home using online resources
- Check your vehicle and safety kit; ensure only what you need is in the passenger compartment
- Dress safely — no ties, sandals, high heels, scarves, or excessive jewelry
- Take fully charged work cell phone with you, pre-programmed with emergency numbers

VEHICLE READINESS

Keep your vehicle in working order, with at least a 1/2 tank of gas, and maintain an emergency kit with the following items:

- Disposable blanket
- Flashlight and spare batteries
- Latex gloves
- Hand sanitizer
- Bottle of water
- Disinfectant wipes
- Extra sweatshirt
- Extra pair of shoes you can change into if you walk in areas containing drug residue, toxins or feces
- A plastic bag for soiled shoes

PARKING & APPROACHING THE HOME

- Park in the street; if you must park in the driveway, back in if your skill level allows
- Park facing the direction you need to leave
- Canvas the neighborhood; look for potential trouble spots and safe havens
- Take only what you need into the home

- Keep vehicle doors locked
- Visually inspect the home and the surrounding area
- Look and listen for signs of disturbances, hazardous chemicals, and/or animals
- Note any smells associated with substance use or other potential issues

WHILE IN THE HOME

- Stay close to an exit; know where all exits are
- Always know everyone who is in the residence
- Keep an open path between you and the exit
- Do not enter rooms or spaces that you could be confined in
- Maintain personal and professional boundaries
- Continually assess everyone's emotional states, including your own
- Use nonthreatening body language
- Remain calm and polite
- Maintain respect; this is their home
- Be an attentive listener
- Tune into yourself. If you assess a situation as dangerous, leave immediately and go to a safe area before you call for help or emergency services.

LEAVING THE HOME VISIT

- Thank everyone for their time
- Have your car keys out and ready as you approach your vehicle
- Pay attention to your surroundings, including people and activity near the residence and your vehicle
- Glance in to the back seat before entering your vehicle
- Once you are in your vehicle, lock your doors
- Do not sit in the vehicle to check your phone or do paperwork
- If you feel threatened, drive to a safe area before making any emergency calls
- If you are being followed, go to a police or fire station; do not go to your home or office