

Home Visits

Thorough preparation should be made for student home community visits with consideration given to these elements:

- Selection of clients and home environments that are not presumed to be dangerous to the student;
- Provision of a safe means of transportation, whether by agency vehicle, the student's car, or public transportation where such can be judged normally safe;
- Discussion of potentially dangerous areas;
- Discussion of appropriate risk-reducing behaviors in the neighborhood and in the client's home;
- Clarification of the purpose and development of a specific plan for the visit;
- Discussion of what to do should the client or anyone else present a threat to the student;
- Opportunity for the student to observe home visits before conducting them and/or to be partnered with another member of the agency; and Provision of appropriate support and backup. Depending on the situation and the student's experience with home visits, this may range from accompaniment by another worker or security person, to immediate availability of telephone consultation. At minimum, the student's Practicum Instructor should know when and where a visit is to take place, and arrange for immediate access to telephone consultation.