**Home Visit Safety Tips**

* Contact the people you plan to visit and obtain as much information as possible (i.e. their location including full name, address, phone number, etc.)
* Attempt to verify that the information is correct
* Check the address you intend to visit to determine if it is a potentially dangerous area
* Telephone the residents and assess possible risk factors
* Before your visit as questions about pets, children, other potential visitors, etc.
* Always inform your supervisor / coworker of the visit (time, location, etc.)
* Take a coworker if the situation calls for additional support
* If possible, arrange for someone to call your cell
* Notify a friend or family member of your arrival. Give them approximate length of visit

**Personal safety during visit**

* If you carry a bag, keep your car keys and cell phone on you (you can barricade yourself in a room and call for help)
* Survey the premises for exits and ways out in an emergency
* If the client locks the door, ask them to unlock it or leave the key in the door so you can get out fast if necessary
* Be aware of trip hazards, both internal and external
* If there are dogs / pets that are a concern, ask client to shut them in another room
* Don’t wear expensive jewelry
* Limit amount of cash
* Avoid carrying credit cards on your person
* Dress conservatively
* Make sure you know the number of people in the home, who they are and where they are located in the house

**Tips to consider if you are faced with aggression during home visit**

* Never enter a house if there is yelling or screaming
* If an aggressive incident occurs, remember to stay as calm as possible and attempt to deescalate the situation
* Stay out of rooms such as kitchens because of knives, etc. that can be used as weapons
* Try to keep a barrier between you and the aggressor
* Slowly attemptto move toward an exit, or consider a room you can barricade yourself in to call police
* Don’t stand face to face as it makes you more vulnerable
* Don’t enter a home with someone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol
* Don’t enter a home if someone is inappropriately dressed