TIP SHEET

Home Visit Risk Assessment

Am I safe to go?

Here is a brief checklist of questions to ask when assessing the safety of a home visit.

SELF-REFLECT

- Do you feel safe and supported?
- Are there any biases or prejudices that may affect your judgement?
- Are there any concerns flagged by other midwives or care providers?
- Are you the most appropriate person for this visit? Should an additional midwife be present?
- Is the visit necessary? And in the home setting?
- Do you have enough information to assess your safety?
- Does the client have any concerns about a midwife coming to their home?
- Is your team aware of your plans?

PHYSICAL SAFETY

Has your client or someone in the home:

- disclosed being a victim of violent behaviour*
- shown signs of violent behaviour*

**Not limited to physical abuse*

HOME SETTING

- Does the client and their family know why you are visiting?
- How many people live in the home? How are they related?
- Will there be anyone else present at the home visit? What are their names?

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

- Do you have the appropriate address?
- Will there be accessible parking and access?
- Does the neighborhood pose a risk of violence?
- Is there an increased risk of disease, infection, or pests in the home environment?
- Are there pets?
- Are there any weapons in the house?
- Are there any indoor smokers?
- Is there cell phone reception?

FINER DETAILS

- Are there any additional details that you should know about the home visit? (where to enter, parking information, building safety, buzzer number, etc.)
- Can the visit be done between 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.?
- What is the client's emergency contact?
- Are there policies or protocols in place for your safety?

Visit canadianmidwives.org/family-violence/resources/ for more resources.

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Midwives Recognize & Respond to Family Violence

CAM ACSF Midwives for everyone, everywhere / Des sages-femmes pour tous, partout

NCIM National Council of Indigenous Midwives

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