

01

ARRANGING THE VISIT

- Review all available information and assess risk
- What is the client's cultural background? Should you be aware of any cultural customs?
- Should this be a joint home visit?
- Can it be done between 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.?
- Should you consider an alternative meeting place?
- Can you get a hold of the client just before the visit?
- Does the client want to be seen at home?



If you feel there is a risk to your safety do not proceed without proper planning.

Make sure to plan what you will do before, during, and after the home visit.

KNOWING THE PLAN

- Know why you are visiting
- Details of your visit (client's name, address, travel time) should be readily known and available to the team
- Notify your team of any delays in your return
- Policies and plans should be in place to ensure safety and notification
- Wear comfortable clothing and footwear for safety and movement; don't forget the family's cultural protocols (if any)

02

03

THE VISIT

- Carry a well-charged phone
- Park in an easily accessible area, as close to the visit as possible
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Be alert to signs of threats or violence



Do not proceed with the visit if there are any signs of potential danger.

AFTER THE VISIT

- Ensure that your team is aware of your safe departure
- Document the visit in a timely way
- Appropriately handover to the team or any midwife involved in the care
- Debrief and plan the next steps

04

MANAGING AN INCIDENT

- Take measures to minimize any adverse impact
- Don't challenge but be assertive
- Stand up and leave if you experience aggressiveness, foul language, unexpected behaviour, rudeness, or name-calling
- Call 911 if you are in danger
- Debrief with midwifery the team



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

REFERENCES:

- Hunt, Dee, and Holly McNeill. *Documentation in Child Welfare: Effective Practices for County DSS Agencies - The Family and Children's Resource Program*. 2014, <https://fcrp.unc.edu/resources/documentation-in-child-welfare-effective-practices-for-county-dss-agencies/>. Accessed 10 March 2023.
- Kendra, Mary Agnes, and Valerie D. George. "Defining Risk in Home Visiting." *Public Health Nursing*, vol. 18, no. 2, 2001, pp. 128–37, doi:10.1046/j.1525-1446.2001.00128.x.
- Kim, Haejung, and Karen M. Hopkins. "Child Welfare Workers' Home Visit Risks and Safety Experiences in the USA: A Qualitative Approach." *International Journal of Social Work and Human Services Practice Horizon Research Publishing*, vol. 5, no. 1, 2017, pp. 1–8.
- Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers. *Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice Handbook: Second Edition - 2008*. 2018, <https://www.ocswssw.org/ocswssw-resources/code-of-ethics-and-standards-of-practice/>. Accessed 10 March 2023.



Midwives
Recognize & Respond
to Family Violence



Financial contribution from

Public Health Agency of Canada
Agence de la santé publique du Canada