



## Tool 2.3: Worker safety tips for home visits<sup>15</sup>

<p><b>General advice</b></p> <p>If a worker is in immediate danger and/or at risk of serious harm, contact emergency services immediately.</p> <p>Pay attention to intuitive feelings.</p> <p>Be alert to your surroundings.</p> <p>Do not confront the abuser.</p> <p>Carry only enough money to get you through the day.</p> <p>Maintain your car; ensure you have enough petrol.</p> <p>Carry a mobile phone.</p> <p>Obtain history of the person you are visiting (i.e., drug and/or alcohol abuse, history of violence, non-compliance with medication, and/or known family dysfunction, etc.).</p> <p><b>Appearance is everything</b></p> <p>Dress practically and wear comfortable walking shoes.</p> <p>Avoid wearing expensive jewellery or accessories.</p> <p>Keep your purse or wallet out of sight, and keep car keys handy at all times.</p> <p><b>Protect your health</b></p> <p>Learn about any situations that might jeopardise your health.</p> <p>Carry sanitary wipes or anti-bacterial lotion.</p> <p><b>Know where you are going</b></p> <p>Plan your route.</p> <p>Go with assistance if a risk is known.</p> <p>Notify colleagues about fieldwork (updating rosters and any changes in itinerary).</p> <p>Have your supervisor or co-worker make a safety-check phone call every 10-15 minutes.</p> <p><b>Before you get out of the car</b></p> <p>If you don't feel safe, don't get out of the car. Leave.</p> <p>Park in a visible area close to the person's residence.</p> <p>Ensure your car cannot be blocked when leaving.</p> <p><b>Getting to the door</b></p> <p>Don't enter the home if an animal threatens your safety (ask the person to secure the animal).</p> <p>After knocking, stand away from the door and to one side, if possible.</p> <p><b>Entering the person's home</b></p> <p>Ensure the person who answers the door walks ahead of you when entering the residence.</p> <p>Once in the home, note the entry and exit points, making sure they are accessible.</p> <p>Consider seating orientation for your meeting/interview.</p> <p>Sit near an exit. Do not allow anyone between you and the door.</p>
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