

Safety Best Practices for Home Visiting Supervisors

Home visiting supervisors are the main source of support for home visitors and are responsible for maintaining compliance with agency safety protocols and procedures. Here are some strategies to help:

Maintain updated information on all home visitors

- Full name
- Basic description and/or picture
- Home and cell phone numbers
- Emergency contact
- Make, model and color of car
- Car registration number

Maintain updated information on all home visitor schedules

- This should include names, addresses and phone numbers of participant visit dates and times.
- Ensure that home visitors notify you of schedule changes.

Establish a safety code word

- This word can be used to indicate a threat or emergency. Keep the word short for easy use.

Provide trainings on prevention strategies that will help keep home visitors safe

- Setting boundaries with clients
- Maintaining professional relationships
- Addressing cultural differences
- Practicing self-care

Maintain open communication about safety concerns and incidents

- Discuss and post information about recent safety concerns and incidents.
- Pay attention to community and weather alerts and share with staff.

Create a culture of safety for your team

- Allow formal and informal opportunities for staff to share safety concerns and strategies.
- Add safety as a standing agenda item during staff meetings and reflective supervision.
- Conduct case studies of potential safety-related incidents with home visitors.
- Connect home visitors with safety-related resources to increase their knowledge and skills.
- Bring home visitor safety concerns to agency management.

If a home visitor calls with an emergency situation

- Get as much information about her/his location as possible.
- Tell her/him you will call 911.
- Keep the caller on the phone and have another person call 911.
- Provide the make of car and license plate number to the police.

Support home visitors in the event of an incident

- Work with your agency to provide medical and legal support.
- Assist with counseling and other mental health referrals.
- Provide information and updates to other team members as appropriate.
- Support the individual, as well as other team members.