

Alert and Aware: HV Personal Safety

Michigan Home Visiting Initiative
Engage, Educate, Empower 2015



Safety? Whose Safety?

- Many of us consider ourselves to be welcomed invited guests; ready to assist families reach their desired goals.
- When would there be a time a home visitors may not be a welcomed guest?



Awareness Spectrum

Condition White-State of Environmental Unawareness

- Daydreaming, tired, preoccupied with distractions
- Assuming there is no possibility of trouble and therefore no cause for alarm
- You are transmitting O.K. but your receiver is out!



Condition Yellow-you are not paranoid; you are prepared

- Relaxed but alert
- Cautions but not tense
- Not specifically expecting a hostile act
- Constantly perceiving and evaluating your ever changing environment
- Play the what if game



People are mammal
Condition Yellow-be aware



Condition Orange

Sate of Alarm-You know there is trouble

- *Concentration is focused on evaluating and resolving the concern for safety.*
- *Developing a tactical plan in your mind, considering use of police. There is a reason to believe a confrontation is likely.*



Condition Red

What looks wrong is wrong

- Focus on the threat and acting to control it.
- Use verbal commands
- Be totally committed to defense of self/other
- This is a fight or flight mode



Condition Black
Lethal Assault

- You will possibly die if you do not act
- I am not a victim; you do not want to deal with me, I am going home tonight....
- The second crime scene is always worse than the first. This is the time to take action
- This is extremely rare, don't let being Prepared equal being frightened.



What can the referral tell you

- Look for safety alert-consider what may be a safety issue. What then?

Things to consider on an initial home visit



Safety assessment at the time of referral-all first time visits are code Yellow

- Is the family's home location potentially dangerous? Very rural, isolated, drug involvement
- Is there a known history of domestic violence or criminal activity or mental illness
- Have you spoken to the family about the visit?
- What is the family structure? Single dad, Single mom, many children, relative care.
- Make a decision: go alone, ask referral source to go with you or take a co-worker.

Keeping assessing upon arriving at the home

- What will be your entrance and exit to the home; long drive way, impassable driveway, alley, many flights of stairs
- "Pets" on the porch or roaming the yard
- Many porch visitors
- Time of day; early in morning, late evening
- Make a decision; does the home appear safe to enter



Preparation for home visit

- Inform office where you are for each appointment-follow your office safety procedures
- Know your location to and from the home
- Dress appropriately for a home visit to play with children,
- Limit the jewelry you wear
- Only take needed items; phone, keys, file, toys,
- Wear you employment I. D.



Something doesn't adding up

- Pay attention and trust your inner voice
- Consult with your supervisor



What are safety procedures?

- Does you agency have home visitor safety procedures?
- If so, are they written, trained, updated and followed?
- Do other interagency partners have procedure that they would share?



Use your resources

- Contact your local DHS for a home visitor safety training for the staff, feedback to the referral source
- Contact your local law enforcement or state police for drug awareness and safety training.



Contact Anytime

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